



COMMENT OF THE DAY

Rice Schemes

THE Hongkong Civic Association has again come forward with its views on Government's rice policy and there is much in the statement worthy of careful study by all who are interested in the problem of ensuring a continuous supply of this commodity to consumers in the Colony at the most equitable rates. It will be recalled that Government issued a statement on its policy last week which was largely concerned with putting the record straight as far as recent prices and imports were concerned without adequately replying to suggestions for alternative importation schemes. Government's attitude appears to be that since only a few know the intricacies and complexities of the rice trade in the Colony, the majority of criticisms made of the new proposals are largely invalid since they "are not always based on a full appreciation of the facts". In short, they attempt to place their positions above criticism by all but the expert few. This is an unwarranted and somewhat peevish attitude to take. Vigilant members of the community are fully entitled to express their views without being considered unbecomingly censorious, and their observations and suggestions deserve the attention of the authorities.

THE whole point of the criticism made of the new proposals is that in principle it is wrong to hand over the rice trade to a small privileged group of merchants. This is in no sense a contention of the individuals who compose the present rice-importing group. Objection to monopolies stems largely from the fact that abuses of some kind or another—such as collusion between individuals composing the monopoly to maintain high prices or some other racket of an obnoxious nature—are theoretically possible and that the best means of avoiding them are to eliminate the conditions under which these malpractices are possible; in the case of the rice importation scheme, to throw open this trade to a wider circle of merchants. It is no argument to justify the present policy of approving only 20 importers to state that in 1940 there were only 18 importers and that during 1951 and 1952 only 13 firms engaged consistently in the trade on any scale.

IN the final assessment the most important consideration is whether the new scheme will be successful in bringing rice to the consumer at the lowest possible price. The Civic Association contends that there have been no announcements of any price fall as yet on the local market and that rice still sells here at \$20-\$30 a picul above the Macao price. Theoretically, rice smuggling is therefore still a paying proposition. We are also inclined to agree that rice prices in Hongkong are likely to remain among the highest in the world under the new system though, of course, some reductions are likely. Government would be wise to cast around for alternative methods which will make possible more realistic price reductions by restoring the true competitive spirit to the trade. For this reason we feel that the Singapore scheme is one proposal that deserves examination even though it involves Government participation. For there is little chance of its achieving a partial return to private trading, the end result is not successful.

Hammaraskjold Visit: SUCCESS or FAILURE?

Observers Uneasy Over Early Ending Of Talks
LAST MEETING 'A FORMALITY'

By D.R. Mankar, an Editor of the Times of India

Peking, Jan. 9.
The United Nations Secretary General, Mr Dag Hammarskjold, went sightseeing in Peking today with the outcome of his mission on behalf of imprisoned Americans apparently decided. He is due to have a fourth meeting on Monday afternoon with Premier Chou En-lai, but it was described as no more than a formal winding up session, indicating that no further conclusions were to be expected. Speculation on the result of the talks was divided. Mr Hammarskjold and Premier Chou will meet for the last time at 3 p.m. on Monday. At 5.30 p.m. Mr Hammarskjold will attend a farewell party at the Swedish Embassy. He will leave by plane at 7 a.m. on Tuesday for Canton, Hongkong and New York.

The schedule made it plain that the final meeting here could not last long and no sign was for homeing that it would be more than a formality.

The United Nations party was scheduled to stop overnight at Canton in South China and leave early Wednesday by train for Hongkong. At the border they will walk across a small bridge into the British Crown Colony and motor into Hongkong.

UNEASY COMMENT

The announcement that the talks would end on Monday followed a session of more than five hours on Saturday. Mr Hammarskjold decided to use the intervening Sunday for a sightseeing excursion.

Some uneasy comment arose among observers over the fact that the talks were ending so soon. They had been expected to last some quarters to last seven to 10 days.

Observers agreed that the wind-up of the talks at this time might either mean that the U.N. mission had proved a brilliant success or that Mr

Hammarskjold had found his talks hopeless and decided to return.

At the outset, Mr Chou made no secret of his intention of discussing with Mr Hammarskjold the release of the men from a Chinese Communist prison "may be a considerable test of the effectiveness of the U.N."

LITTLE DOUBT

Little doubt was seen here that Mr Chou brought up with Mr Hammarskjold such issues as charges that thousands of Chinese captured in the Korean war were imprisoned in Chinese camps, that the Americans inspired and carried out spy activity against the Chinese mainland, that 35 Chinese students were detained in the United States, that China was being denied a rightful seat in the United Nations, and that the Americans committed provocative acts in bolstering up the Chiang regime on Formosa through military guarantees.

If Mr Hammarskjold found himself unable to discuss or express views specifically on the detention of the airmen, the possibility was seen that the talks came to an abrupt close.

U.S. REACTION

Washington, Jan. 9.
Senator John Sparkman, U.S. delegate to the United Nations, said today he believed the U.S. would "feel strongly"

in favour of any recommendation on the U.N. Secretary-General Mr Dag Hammarskjold, makes it the case of the 11 U.S. airmen. Senator Sparkman also said the success or failure of Mr Hammarskjold's efforts to win the release of the men from a Chinese Communist prison "may be a considerable test of the effectiveness of the U.N."

The Senate Republican leader, Mr William Knowland, said tonight he still favoured a blockade of Communist China to force the release of the imprisoned American airmen. He told a television audience, however, that he would not press his demand until the U.N. Secretary-General, Mr Hammarskjold, reported on his talks with Chinese Communist leaders refused to commit himself on a bill to be introduced by Senator Joseph McCarthy to cut off all U.S. aid to any nation shipping materials to Communist China unless the Chinese freed the U.S. servicemen.

Senator Knowland said he would see the bill and "consult with the Administration" before taking a stand. He said he had opposed trading in "strategic materials" with the Chinese while there was a danger of further aggression from the Communist world.

CHINA'S ATTACK

Tokyo, Jan. 9.
Communist China accused the United States today of using what it called "empty blackmail" in an attempt to free 11 American airmen imprisoned in China as spies.

A Radio Peking broadcast, monitored in Tokyo, said the blackmail was veiled in threats by the U.S. to use direct action unless the airmen were freed. The radio quoted the People's Daily, Chinese Government mouthpiece, in denouncing the United States.

This blast came in the midst of attempts by the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Hammarskjold, to free the convicted men.

Peking Radio reported that Ching Yuan-chung, who was not identified, wrote in the People's Daily that there was historic precedent for direct action by the United States against China.

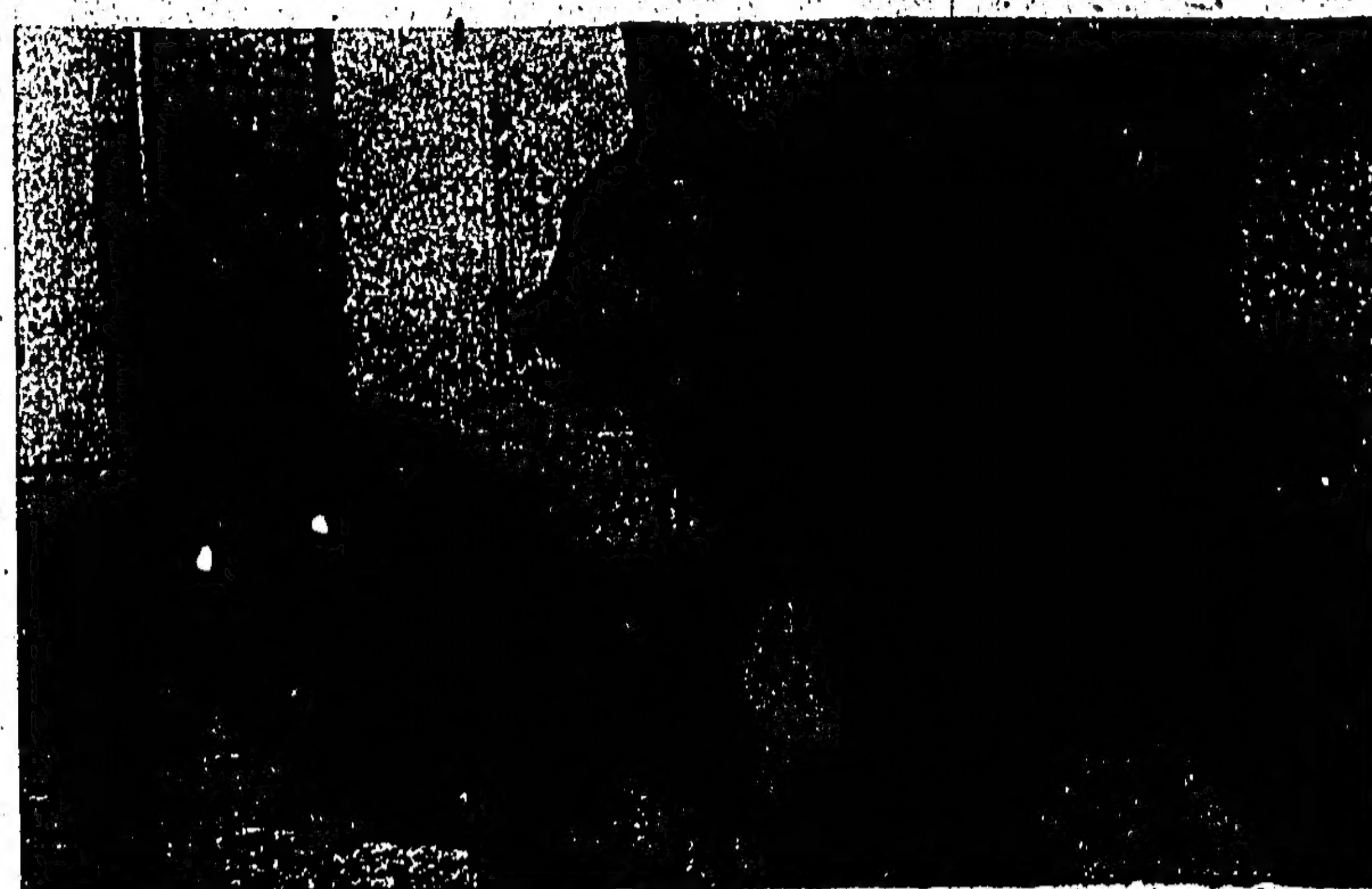
SAD STATE

The Communist writer, however, said that this "evokes the fact that the Chiang Kai-shek group which permitted the Americans to rule the roost in China has been thrown out."

"The sad state of U.S. troops in the stampee south from the Yalu River has certainly been forgotten also."

"Historical precedent certainly exists," said the writer, "if the American aggressors want to make war on the Chinese people. It is the precedent of Hitler, Tojo, and the Korean war."—United Press.

Bambi Chums Up With Puss



"Bambi" young deer that was left by its mother in the Autumn is now quite at home in the home of a fosterer and his wife, living at Fudan, Denmark. Bambi, who wears a small bell on a collar, is allowed to go wherever he likes. He sometimes wanders into the forest, but always returns. Bambi's companion is "Mia" the cat.—London Express. Photo.

Another Fire! 15 Huts Burnt

Fifteen wooden huts were destroyed at 10 o'clock this morning when a fire broke out at Section 3, Chai Wan Resettlement area.

Apart from destroying these huts, the fire also started a bush fire. In all, one quarter of a square mile of land was razed by the fire, which burned for nearly an hour before it was put out by the Fire Brigade. There were no casualties in this fire. Police are investigating the cause.

100 Huts Burnt In Macao Fire

Macao, Jan. 10.
More than 100 huts were destroyed and several hundred people rendered homeless when a fire broke out at 5 a.m. this morning at Chengchow, in the northern part of Macao. The majority of dwellings in the Chengchow sector are wooden huts.—Reuter.

2700 Stolen: £28,000 Saved
Armed Africans In Bold Daylight Holdup

Kampala, Jan. 9.
Armed Africans yesterday staged a bold daylight hold-up of a lorry carrying £28,000. They were frightened away by a passing motorist after taking only £700.

The lorry, carrying money intended to buy cotton from African farmers, was ambushed on the main road from Jinja to Kampala, north-east of here.

The Africans drove a saloon car out of the bush bordering the road and two of the five men, who jumped out of it, fired shots from pistols. They grabbed a shotgun from a man in the lorry cab. The private motorist approached while they were transferring money bags to the car.

The robbers dropped some of the money, driving off with only about £700 in cash. The saloon car was later found abandoned.—Reuter.

Dr Edith, MP Shocked The Villagers

Tel-Aviv, Jan. 9.
Dr Edith Summerskill, British Member of Parliament who is touring Israel, was today reported to have shocked the people of a remote Israeli village by the unconventional way she registered a protest against what she considered absence of sex equality.

Reports said she led the headman's newly married daughter-in-law, from the women's quarters into the village square, and made her shake hands with all the assembled men present—village leaders and dignitaries. Dr Summerskill said in a radio speech that she was shocked by every Israeli man for the rest of her visit here, but she must say that sex equality in Israel "obtains only in theory, not in practice."—Reuter.

Thermometer Drops Below 'Shiver Point'
BRRR... ICE ON THE PEAK!

Brrr... Hongkong really shivered this morning. The minimum ground temperature dropped to 35 degrees F. and on the heights of the peak, ice formed in the bitter wind.

If that ground temperature sounds low, you may be surprised to know that it's not the lowest on record in the Colony. On January 18, 1893, the atmospheric minimum was 32 degrees!

The minimum atmospheric temperature last night was 40.1 degrees.

A Hongkong resident, Mr A. S. Abbott of Lugard Road, phoned the China Mail this morning to say that he left a tub of water outside his house last night and at 7.30 a.m. it had a coating of 1/16th of an inch of ice.

'The First Time'

"I've been 30 years in Hongkong and it's the first time I've seen such a thing," he added.

Two days ago there was a ground frost at Fanling, Hongkong weathermen reported today.

And In London...

London, Jan. 9.
Londoners saw the sun today for the first time this year.

But it did not warm their chilled bones. Temperatures remained near freezing point.

Helen Keller Plans To 'Retire'

New York, Jan. 9.
Helen Keller, who for more than 50 years has made her own blindness a beacon of hope to people less handicapped than she, said today that she planned to retire soon as America's "Ambassador" to the world's sightless.

Her 75th birthday, June 27, has been set by Miss Keller as her target date for retirement from her travelling post with the American Foundation for Overseas Blind, for which she has circled the globe five times.

In February Miss Keller is due to set out on her last trip abroad. It will be a 40,000-mile tour by plane, train and car to help Asia's blind people.

When this most heroic trip of her career is over, Miss Keller said, she hopes to devote her remaining days to a "summing up" of her remarkable life.

Miss Keller, who is blind, deaf, and speechless, in infancy, has devoted most of her life to a crusade to help the blind and deaf. She has written several books and has been a powerful force in the fight for the rights of the handicapped.

The Pope: 'May Never Resume Full Activity'

Vatican City, Jan. 9.
Pope Pius XII has passed immediate danger but he may never again be able to resume full activity, Vatican sources said tonight.

The sources gave that opinion of the Pope's condition five weeks and three days after the 78-year-old Pontiff had a frightening brush with death. The Pope overcame the December 2 collapse, but it left him in a weakened state to face the most critical winter of his 16-year reign.

The Pope's heart and lungs are still in excellent condition and most of the five doctors who have been treating him believe he can live many more years provided he limits his activity.

NO REST

But the Pope has made it clear that for him there is no rest. The danger and difficulty in his case is that he always insists on carrying out Church duties even when his doctors constantly caution "more rest is essential."

None of the doctors will offer a prognosis on the Pope. They note the steady, slow improvement, halted several times but never set back, over the past 30 days. But they always caution that he will be 79-year old on March 12 and he is still weak.

'GETS UP LATER'

The Pope wants to call a consistory to name new Cardinals. Informants said he probably would not be able to do so before Spring.

He might be able to resume some of his activities in the Spring, according to informed Vatican sources, but he may never be able to return to all his former duties. He no longer spends any time in bed during the day. He sits in a deep armchair at 10 a.m. But he gets up at 11 a.m. and goes to bed four hours later at 3 p.m. instead of 8 a.m.—United Press.

Reds Bomb Tachen

Taipei, Jan. 10.
Twelve Chinese Communist planes bombed and strafed Nationalist-held Tachen Island, off the South Chekiang coast, for two hours this morning, according to an official Nationalist Government announcement.

No details as yet available, but the announcement said the attack lasted from 0600 to 0800, local time.—Reuter.

BOMB OUTRAGE IN ITALY
TWO KILLED, 40 INJURED

Ancona, Italy, Jan. 9.
An unidentified man tossed a hand grenade among a cinema audience here tonight killing two women and injuring 40 other people, some seriously.

The man then fired three revolvers shots into the crowd, and slipped out unnoticed amid the uproar. It had at first been thought that an explosion had occurred in the projection room.

HAPPY LAUGHING

The gallery, crowded at the metropolitan cinema, erupted laughing at Gino Zedler's play, "The Last Days of Pompeii," when the film showed the city's fall.

They rushed for the exits, jamming the doors for many minutes, and allowing the bomb thrower to escape. Part of the gallery over the projection room was wrecked and one of the dead women, Luigia Barabasi, 45, was decapitated. Red Cross doctors treated the injured women, when they were taken to hospital.

The police were called to the scene and the cinema was closed for several hours. The bodies of the two dead women were taken to the morgue.

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AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.
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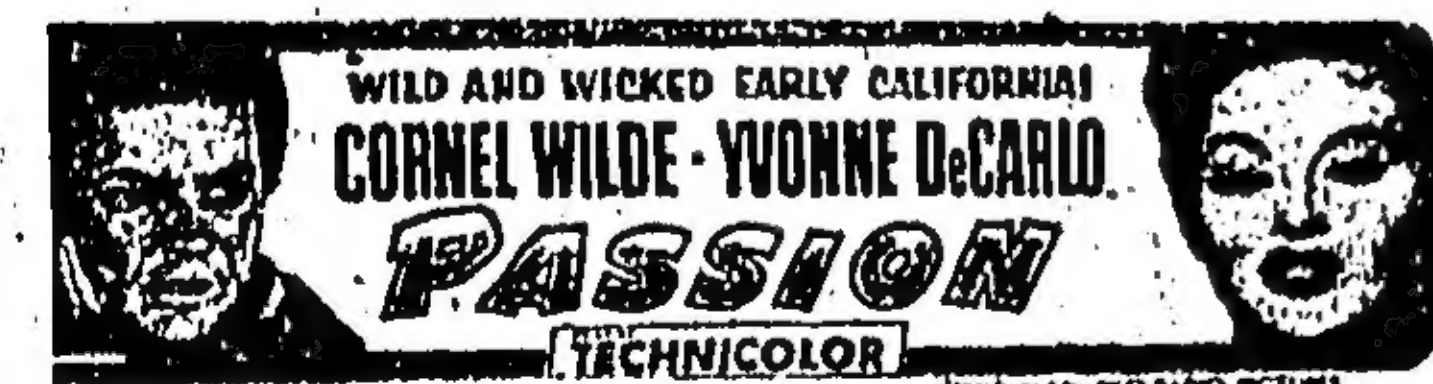


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ON OUR GIANT WIDE SCREEN



To-morrow: French film with English Sub-titles
'THE REBELS OF LOMANACH'

WESTERN LONG SHOT

Bid To Save South Vietnam From Reds 'PRICE OF FAILURE IS TOO HIGH'

By Gene D. Symonds

Saigon, Jan. 9.

Most American military and diplomatic officials here today think the West is backing a long shot in the fight to save South Vietnam from Communist grasp.

But though they know the odds are long, none of them thinks that an effort should not be made for in their opinion the price of failure is too high. "Whether we like it or not, we've got our money on this long shot," a high officer told me, "and if we lost here I honestly believe we've lost Asia."

There are many men—diplomats and military—in the American missions who are extremely bitter about the slowness of American action in making an all-out effort.

THE LINE
Said one officer with years of experience in fighting Communists: "Washington won't make up its mind where to draw the line but I do—the 17th Parallel. And we should be ready to fight if they cross it."

There are few informed officials here who feel that the Reds would not win if the all-Vietnam elections scheduled for 18 months from now were held today.

It is possible in this refugee military and political jammed capital to find every degree of human outlook from abject pessimism to roiling optimism.

The French group, low in morale and reduced in influence by seven crippling years of war and the Geneva settlement, are generally pessimistic. But American officials report that on the whole except from some levels the French have been co-operating fully.

Vietnamese officials' nationalistic emotions damped by the loss of the Northern half of their country, the Geneva settlement and cutting of ties with the French are optimistic about the future.

Unfortunately Saigon today is rife with indecision, intrigues, confusion, bitterness and feuds. But behind the confusion lies one stark fact and monumental problem posed by the fact.

UNDERGROUND CONTROL
The fact: underground Communist organizations control about 50 per cent of the country.

The problem: to break this control and get the support of the people behind the government before the all-Vietnam elections in the summer of 1955.

The main bottleneck right now seems to be the lack of an overall American plan of action, tying together the actions of all three groups and the different missions. There is hope that this will be rectified when General J. Lawton Collins, President Eisenhower's special envoy, returns to Washington to report some time next month.

BROAD POLICY
But discussions with key members of his staff, the American Embassy and Vietnamese and French leaders who have conferred with him indicated his broad policy recommendations will include:

Firstly, throw the full and continuing support of the United States behind the still weak government of Ngo Dinh Diem, President of the Council of Ministers. This means supporting Diem in breaking down the influence of the various religious and military groups which are plotting and intriguing against him.

Questions as to why the United States picked Diem as a retiring bachelor who had been out of public life for 15 years or more bring replies of "no comment" from American officials.

Some Vietnamese leaders privately admit they do not care

for Diem. Furthermore there is a small but influential American group which would like to see Diem dumped and a stronger man probably a military man brought in.

Secondly, completely re-organise the army using American training methods and indoctrinated with the idea of serving the people rather than exploiting them.

Felicitous agreement between Gen. Collins and Gen. Paul Ely, French Commander-in-Chief, has set the size of the Vietnamese army at less than 100,000.

The Vietnamese fiercely but helplessly object to the low figure.

The final size will depend on how much Congress authorizes. So far the American military mission has made little progress along these lines.

RETURNING SUPPLIES

It has been mostly busy with getting military supplies back to South Vietnam from the Northern areas which must be returned to the Communists in May.

Thirdly, a large scale military and economic aid programme for the Vietnamese government. A figure of \$300,000,000 for 1955 is anticipated with an initial request of \$500,000,000 from Congress to take care of any cuts by that body.—United Press.

COMING !!!

THE STALK
OF THE TOWN!



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A Comedy

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★ SHOWING TO-DAY ★

NEXT
CHANGE

Charles Dickon's
"GREAT EXPECTATIONS"
Jean Simmons — John Mills

ROXY & BROADWAY

SHOWING TO-DAY

ROXY
At 2.30, 5.20, 7.30
& 9.40 P.M.

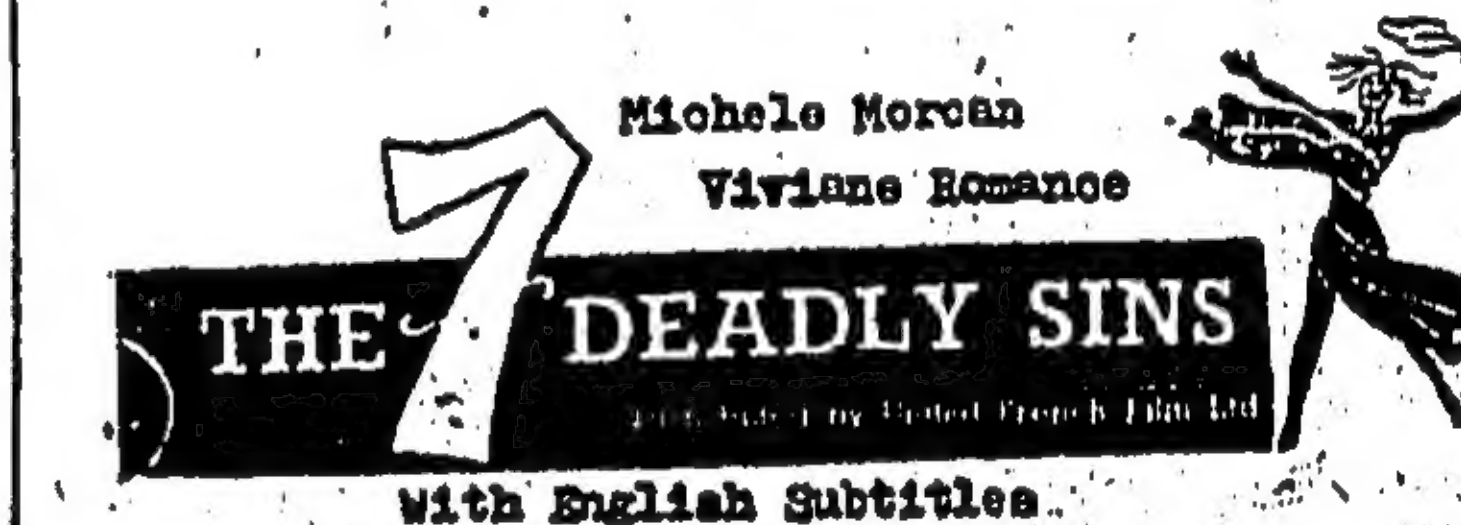
BROADWAY
At 2.30, 5.30, 7.30
& 9.30 P.M.



ADDED! Movietone News: 1954 Review

EMPIRE

★ FINAL TO-DAY ★
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.



NEXT CHANGE



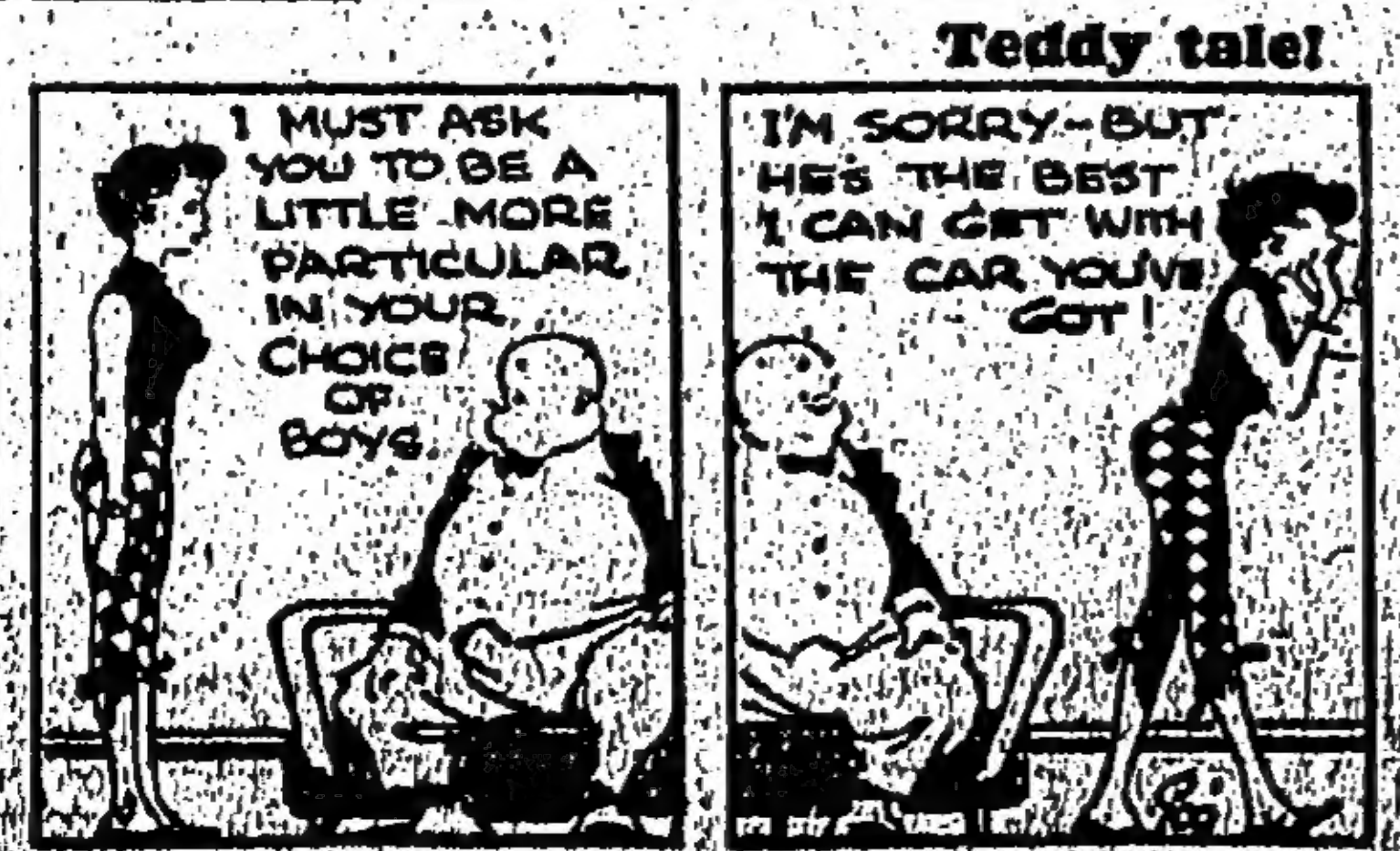
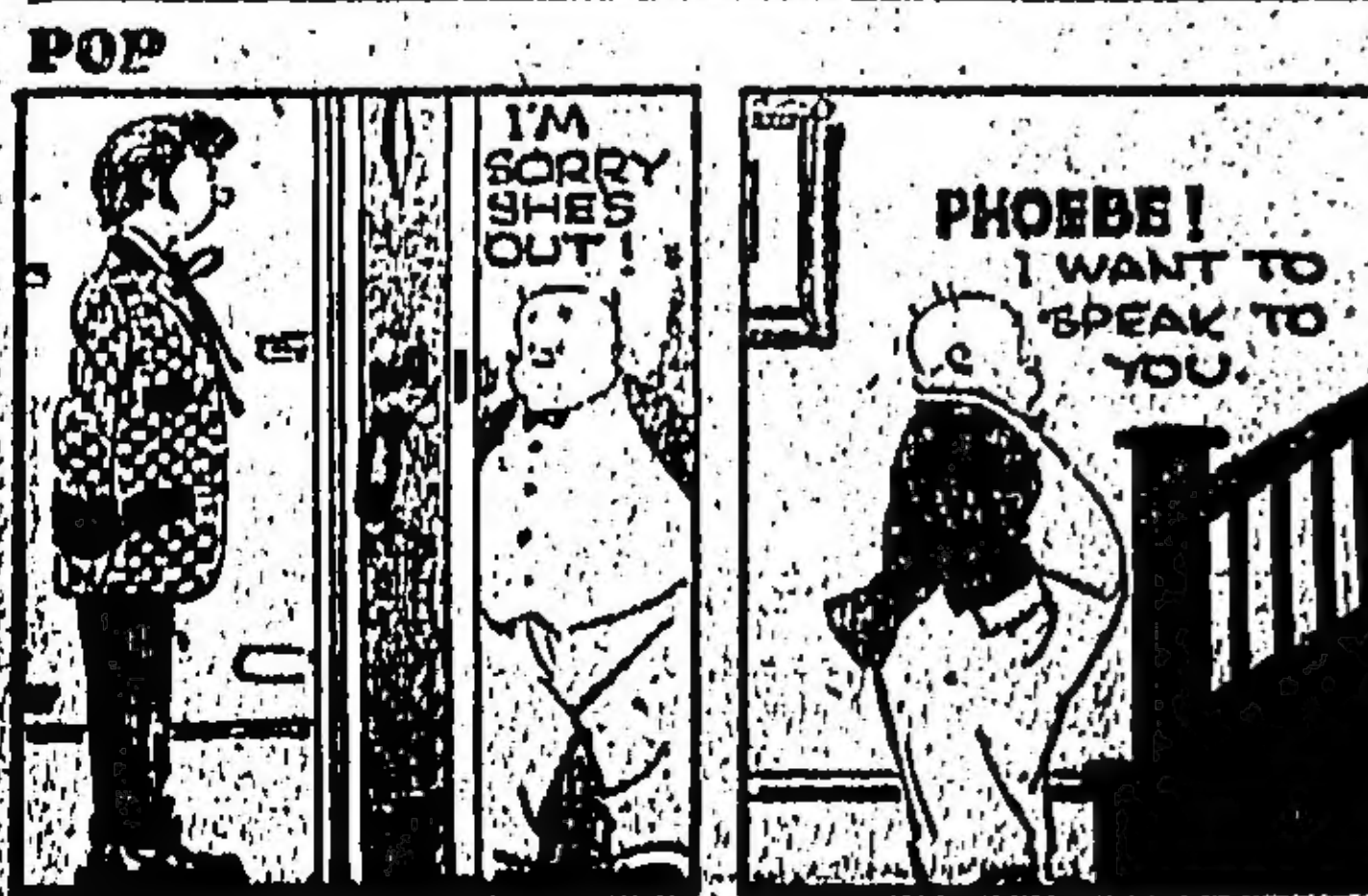
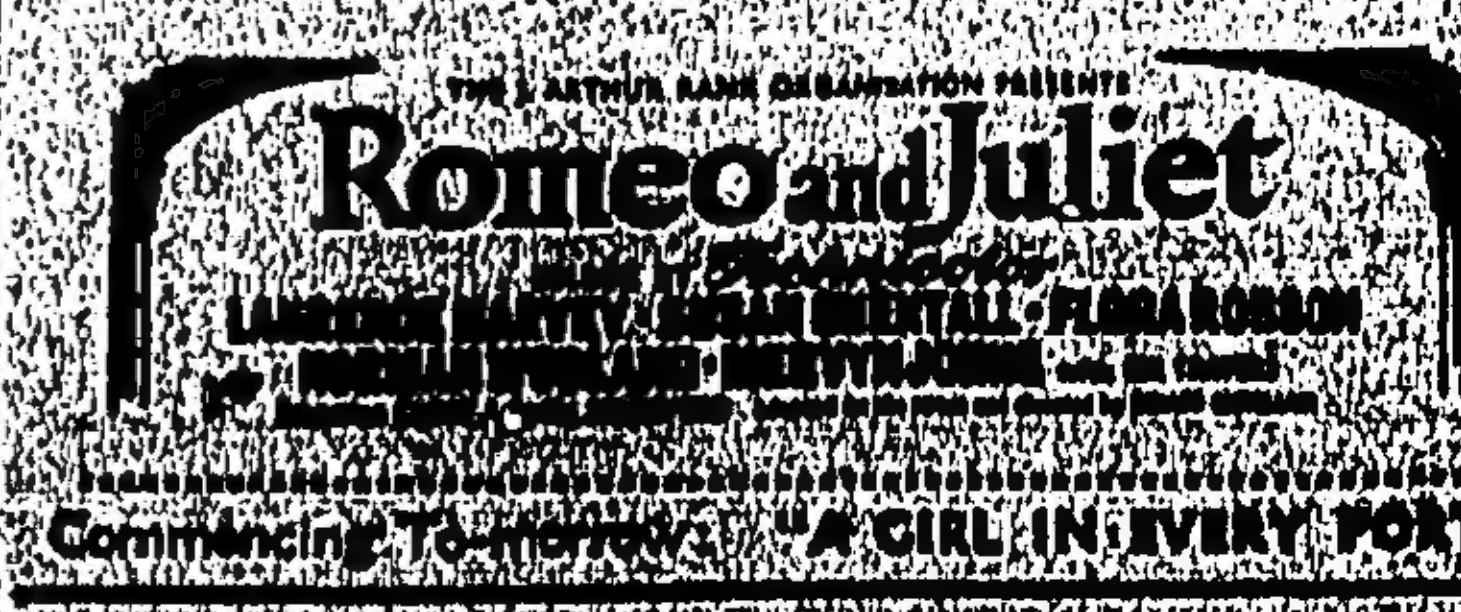
HOOVER SHOWING TO-DAY

2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.



MAJESTIC

Final Showing To-day
2.20—4.45—7.15 &
9.40 P.M.



EISENHOWER'S PROGRAMME

Support Needed On Defence & Foreign Issues

By Paul Scott Rankine

Washington, Jan. 9.

President Eisenhower's chances of putting through his vast legislative programme will depend upon his capacity to build up, not one but a series of frequently changing coalitions in the new opposition controlled Congress.

The reception of the President's State of the Union message and other factors make it clear this Congress will not divide along the routine Democratic-Republican party lines in debating his some 30 foreign and domestic measures.

Such factors are a genuine enthusiasm for bipartisanship in matters of national security. The narrowness of the margin through which the Democrats control Congress and the very great personal popularity of the President amongst all the voters.

President Eisenhower's task therefore should be easier than that of either of his predecessors. President Hoover, who had a Democratic Congress in 1929-33, or of Democratic President Truman who had a Republican Congress throughout 1947-49.

BETTER DISCIPLINE

During both those periods opposition was more partisan. Better disciplined party majorities used the situation more or less openly as a build-up for the Party's capture of the White House at the approaching presidential elections.

But though the present Congress may not vote along party lines there are other lines on which they can divide and every indication is they will aggressively do so.

The lines on which the President's programme is expected to divide the new Congress are between:

1. Free traders and protectionists — according to the practical effect upon constituents of the President's proposals to liberalise American participation in international trade.
2. New dealers and anti-new dealers — regarding the merits of a social welfare programme which is already being hailed by the Democrats as a pale though desirable imitation of the new and fair deal programmes of Roosevelt and Truman.
3. Spendthrifts and economists — according to the relative attractions of a balanced budget and a secure and contented electorate.
4. Conservatives and Liberals — divided on the virtue, desirability or necessity of Federal interference with private business or Federal invasion of State and local government spheres.
5. Advocates and opponents of farm subsidies, public works and

power projects, aid to education and health services, and other proposals which all cut across all the other party alignments.

THE FIRSTERS

In the foreign and defence field President Eisenhower will have to build up coalitions from amongst "Asia firsters", "America firsters" and "Europe firsters", and amongst "big army", "big navy" and "big air force" advocates.

We will have to obtain majorities despite the differences in his own party between the "fortress America", semi-isolationists and the advocates of local preparedness along the periphery of the expanding Communist bloc: between those who are for all out reliance on atomic weapons and those who believe that atomic stalemate will restore conventional weapons to their former importance.

And after each legislative battle he will have to prevent the opposition coalition from perpetuating itself into the next.

The President will thus have two handicaps resulting from the lack of the kind of party discipline which aids chief executives under the European style parliamentary system.

Some of his own party leaders in Congress, such as the Senate Republican leader, Senator William Knowland, are already opposed to him on some important issues.

These handicaps are to some extent offset by the support which bi-partisanship will enable him to command from Democratic leaders and the Democratic rank and file. But as the titular head of the Republican Party and a potential candidate in the Presidential election of 1956, he cannot lean too heavily on Democratic support lost in that election they claim credit for his achievements of his administration.

The President planned to return to Washington on Sunday evening from his new home at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Shortly before leaving Washington, the President completed work on a foreign trade message he will send to Congress on Monday. Awaiting final touches when he returns to the White House are two other messages which will go to the capital next week.

PAY INCREASES

One of them to be submitted on Tuesday will call for pay rises for civil service and postal workers and for an increase in postal rates. The other message going to Congress on Thursday will set forth the administration's manpower reserve programme and recommend selective pay increases for members of the armed forces. — Reuter.

Fortune For Red Indians

Frankfurt, Jan. 9. A corporal in the United States 10th Armoured Group stationed here is to share a fortune of 10 million dollars but it looks as if he will have to wait until 1958.

The money was awarded to the Menominee Indians in a lawsuit against the United States Government. The Indians are to distribute it among the 8,000 odd members, who include Corporal Percy P. Brooks, of Detroit, Michigan.

The court also said that the tribe should be entitled to manage its own affairs as from 1958. The tribe complained that the Government mismanaged tribal affairs. The Menominee Indians, one of the poorest tribes, live in the area of Keshena, Wisconsin. — China Mail Special.



Treasure Finder May Get Only \$100 Reward

The treasure trove of 17th century porcelain and bronze, found at Johore Lama early last month is the most important of its kind ever unearthed in Malaya and is "historically priceless," Mr G. de G. Steveling, curator of Federation Museums, said recently.

But he added, only the few Chinese porcelain bowls which are intact have any value from a collector's viewpoint.

These, Mr Steveling values at between \$500 and \$1,000. A commensurate reward will probably be paid to the Malay fisherman, Linche

Mohamed bin Mosmin, who unearthed the treasures when he was digging a tapoca patch.

But special approval must first be obtained if the maximum reward of \$100, provided for under the Federal Treasure Trove Ordinance, is to be exceeded.

Mr Steveling said at a press conference in Raffles Museum workshop, where the finds were being assembled, that the bronze pieces among the collection are the first historic bronze ever discovered in Malaya.

Although the porcelain is Chinese, and some of it first-class Imperial ware, the

bronze is probably of Muslim origin. The whole collection, he said, must have been buried by a wealthy collector between 1650 and 1700.

The collection, which has been declared the property of the Johore State Government, will be displayed in Raffles Museum as soon as it is assembled.

Mr Steveling's pretty young wife, Ann, who is archivist of the Federation Museums Department, was busy gluing the jigsaw pieces of broken porcelain together.

The treasure will later be kept at the National Museum, Kuala Lumpur, until a Johore Museum is built.

Oscar Was 'On The Tiles'

Melbourne, Jan. 9. Melbourne's most extensive cat hunt ended when a grey and white Persian cross named Oscar was nabbed in a backyard after a month "on the tiles." His co-owners, Mrs H. Hansen and Miss Sonja Hansen, distributed 2,000 handbills, offering A£10 reward, posted notices in shops and conducted torch-light searches from 3 a.m. to dawn daily with police and milkmen as onlookers. Oscar was found by another family of cat lovers. — China Mail Special.

Anti-Red Campaign In Thailand

Bangkok, Jan. 10. Thailand is conducting an "Anti-Red" Campaign.

According to local Press reports the Prime Minister, Marshal Pibul Songgram, has ordered letter headings and Government note paper to be changed from red to black as part of the anti-Communist campaign.

Now buildings are to have green and not red tiles on their roofs.

But the Governor of the Bank of Thailand is not going to change the colour of Thailand's Bank notes from red to green. "They are not very red," he said. — Reuter.

SCHOOL FOR 'JEEVES'

Munich, Jan. 9. Postwar prosperity has brought the manservant back into fashion in West Germany, including a Munich school, which first began training men to be the perfect valet or butler in 1900, to reopen its doors.

Courses of two or four weeks are offered to applicants who must have good character testimonials before they are considered.

They learn anything from packing bags to cleaning silver, saddling horses and cleaning shoes. Tipples and other indispensable accomplishments — are no longer in vogue.

But the supreme rule is tact and discretion.

The school played away in the "thirties, then died in the war. It was reopened a few weeks ago. — Reuter.

Soviet Will Have Space Satellites

London, Jan. 9.

Earth men preparing for the first trip to the moon will establish a space satellite "within a very few years", a Soviet scientist predicted today (Sunday).

Professor Dobronravov, in a broadcast from Moscow said his satellite would consist of a rocket rotating round the earth at a distance of several hundred miles.

TRANSMIT RESULTS It would be equipped with instruments "which will transmit to earth the results of scientific observations."

Next stages in Professor Dobronravov's master plan for conquering space were:

1. Construction of a satellite in space on which people would stay.

2. A step by step advance towards the moon by space stations on which small remote control rockets would be assembled and sent off to reach the moon, travel round it and return.

3. A flight to the moon by a rocket carrying a crew who would land to carry out scientific research and then return to the space stations or the earth.

Travel between the planets, the Soviet scientist concluded, would "become a reality in the very near future." — Reuter.

As A Democrat Ike Would Have Been Great

Washington, Jan. 9. Senator John Sparkman (Democrat, Alabama) said today that President Eisenhower would have been a great President if he had been a Democrat.

Senator Sparkman, the 1952 Democratic Vice-Presidential candidate, was answering a question on a radio television programme. In 1948 Senator Sparkman had suggested that Mr Eisenhower run for President as a Democrat. Senator Sparkman was asked how he felt about it now.

"He had been elected as a Democrat," he would have had the finest co-operation from Democratic leaders and the Democratic Congress, and he would have made a great President," Senator Sparkman said. — Reuter.

24TH CHILD

Niort, Western France, Jan. 9. The 24th child of M. and Madame Jean Devaud was baptised at Font Devaud, near here today. — Reuter.

GALLAND DENIES REPORTS

Paris, Jan. 9.

General Adolphe Galland, second world war Luftwaffe ace, tonight denied reports that he had been invited to head a new West German air force.

General Galland who arrived here by air from Buenos Aires on his way to Frankfurt, told reporters: "I have not been asked to head a new Luftwaffe. I can tell you no more than that."

The General who is a technical adviser to the Argentine Air Force, said the object of his visit to Germany — the first he has made for six years — was to meet heads of the motor car industry there.

"I shall probably return to Argentina in a few weeks unless my contract there is not renewed," he added.

(When General Galland arrived in Frankfurt later, he said that the West German defence office had not consulted him about the new air force either officially or unofficially.)

(Asked whether he would accept a high position in the new air force, General Galland said: "I should like first to hear the conditions.") — Reuter.

SEX CHANGE

Johannesburg, Jan. 9. An 18-year-old Johannesburg girl who was admitted to the women's ward at the Johannesburg General Hospital will probably be discharged from the male ward as a man next March, it was disclosed here today.

The girl's early childhood was normal, but by the time she reached the senior classes of the Reformed Central High School she had become so strong that she was forbidden to play games with her classmates.

On leaving school she applied for a post with the South African Railways, and while waiting for confirmation of her appointment she joined the Johannesburg Hospital, first as a nurse and later as a patient. — Reuter.

CAMBODIA MAY BE CO-EXISTENCE TESTING GROUND

Phnom Penh, Jan. 9.

The ancient state of Cambodia in Indo-China may soon become the world's main testing ground, demonstrating whether co-existence is possible between Communism and the West.

Cambodia has found itself the key state on a belt of neutral territory between the two great world blocs. With its neighbour Laos it lies across the border between the conflicting blocs in Southeast Asia.

Mr Jawaharlal Nehru, India's Prime Minister, is eager to keep this belt free both from Western colonialists and from international Communism. The French colonialists have largely left the belt and Mr Nehru has Communist promises that they will not move in.

On his recent journey to China Mr Nehru got Dr Ho Chi Minh, leader of the Vietnamese Communists in Vietnam, to pledge that he would not interfere in the internal affairs of Laos and Cambodia.

NEUTRAL BELT

If Dr Ho and other Communists carry out this promise, the rest of Southeast Asia — Siam, Malaya and Burma — will be blocked to them by a belt of neutral territory running from China to the Gulf of Siam apart from the mountainous China-Burma frontier.

At present Laos is more of an unstable spot than Cambodia. Less united and with a weaker government than Cambodia, it lies cheek by jowl with China and Communist North Vietnam. Nevertheless Phnom Penh will become the key point of the "neutral belt" experiment because India has decided to recognise Cambodia and install a diplomatic envoy in the capital here.

India, whose culture spread here a thousand years ago in blossom in the jungle temples of Angkor, has long taken a friendly interest in Cambodia. This has developed into a warm friendship since Mr Nehru's visit on his way home from China last month.

It will be from the heart of this little nation of four million friendly and largely untrained people that India will watch her experiment here and in Laos too.

Cambodia will only be neutral in so far as she takes no part in the Southeast Asian treaty organisation or any other military line up against Communism. Her people are most fervent Buddhists and Communism never took root here during the Indochina war as it did in Vietnam and Laos.

FAMILY INFLUENCE

Under 32-year-old King Norodom Sihanouk, who won independence from France, the majority of people are royalists — though some disagree with parts of the King's policy and many criticise the influence of his family.

But the Cambodians are likely to develop a strong democracy if left to themselves. The question before them is "will they be left alone?"

South Vietnam on Cambodia's flank has failed since the Geneva conference to build up a strong united country. Most politicians here think that the Vietnamese will win control of Southern Vietnam in the proposed 1956 elections if not before.

Cambodia would thus have direct contact with Communism along 400 miles of her frontier.

If Cambodia accepts American military aid and American military alliances, the fears that she may turn herself into a potential front line combatant — not a happy prospect in this part of the world.

If she does not arm she would become easy prey for aggressors.

USING TACT

By using tact Cambodia is trying to avoid both dangers. India has never suggested that she should disarm.

The 30,000 strong Cambodian army, one of the smallest in Asia, is only lightly equipped at present. Plans are being made to protect the long border with South Vietnam. The best way to seal the frontier is to renege promises on the borderlands, deserted since last winter's fighting. There will therefore be a resettlement scheme backed by strong police forces.

The principal headache for the Government, headed by King Sihanouk as Prime Minister, in the past, has been money. Phnom Penh says himself that he has been tired but by the strain of office.

FRENCH CONTROL

Before taking a rest, however, he wishes Cambodia free from French economic control over her trade. But Cambodia cannot manage without French backing for her defence, unless she gets backing of other foreign currencies. — Reuter.

ALLEGED PIRATING OF DESIGNS BY JAPS

New York, Jan. 9.

The Rosenthal Block China Corporation, U.S. agents for Rosenthal China Company, Germany, has filed suit in the Federal Court here against American Commercial Incorporated, distributors of Japanese china and earthenware, charging "unlawful copying" and distribution of Japan-made chinaware, and "simulating" Rosenthal's copyrighted patented designs.

The suit seeks an injunction restraining American commercial from further distribution of such lines and accounting actual and punitive money damages.

The suit is believed to be the first action of this kind involving a Japanese firm since before the Second World War.

The complaint states that it alleged New York design firm of Rosenthal Loewy to produce a line of china styled for the American market. The designs were copyrighted under U.S. design patents and were widely sold in the United States under the brand name "Continental" at a fixed retail price of 25¢ dollars for the set.

\$50 A SET The complaint states that subsequently American Commercial engaged in "unlawful competition" by imitating a set of china in which the Continental designs were copied and were retailed at \$50 a set.

The case is attracting interest as a test case. It has been only within the past few years that the U.S. Patent Office has agreed to permit the copyrighting and patenting of designs of "artistic merit" on the ground that the creator and owner of such design had a valuable property right therein.

In previous cases of copying exclusively styled merchandise, the aggrieved party faced a difficult task proving in court that it was his particular design that a competing firm was copying.

Under the new copyrighting of design, the aggrieved party can now proceed in U.S. Federal Courts. — Reuter.

Birth-Rate Linked With Marriages

Tel-Aviv, Jan. 9.

Israeli statisticians have discovered that the birth-rate is linked to the number of marriages.

In their report on vital statistics during the first ten months of 1954, they noted that the number of marriages, in Israel dropped from 9.9 per thousand in 1953 to 8.9 per thousand in 1954.

During the same period the birth-rate dropped from 32.1 per thousand to 28.7. — Reuter.

Colombo, Jan. 9.

Several people were injured today when the timely roof of the customs shed at Rajahmundry airport here gave way under the weight of people who climbed on top to watch the Ceylon Air Academy's fourth annual display, but no one was seriously hurt.

More than half a million watched the display given by the British Royal Air Force, the Royal Ceylon Air Force and the Hindustani Aircraft Company of India. — China Mail Special.



PRESIDENT EINAUDI

MR FRANCE TO MEET ITALIAN PRESIDENT

Positano, Southern Italy, Jan. 10.

The first honorary citizen of this little resort on the Gulf of Salerno — M. Pierre Mendes-France, the French Premier — flies to Naples today to meet the first citizen of Italy, President Luigi Einaudi.

After lunch at the President's summer villa above Naples, M. Mendes-France and his wife will drive to Rome where his official visit begins tomorrow.

The French Premier was presented with a 20-inch bronze key to Positano last night at the end of a rainy three-day holiday here.

In Rome, M. and Madame Mendes-France will stay at the Farnese Palace, the French Embassy.

AMBITIOUS PLAN

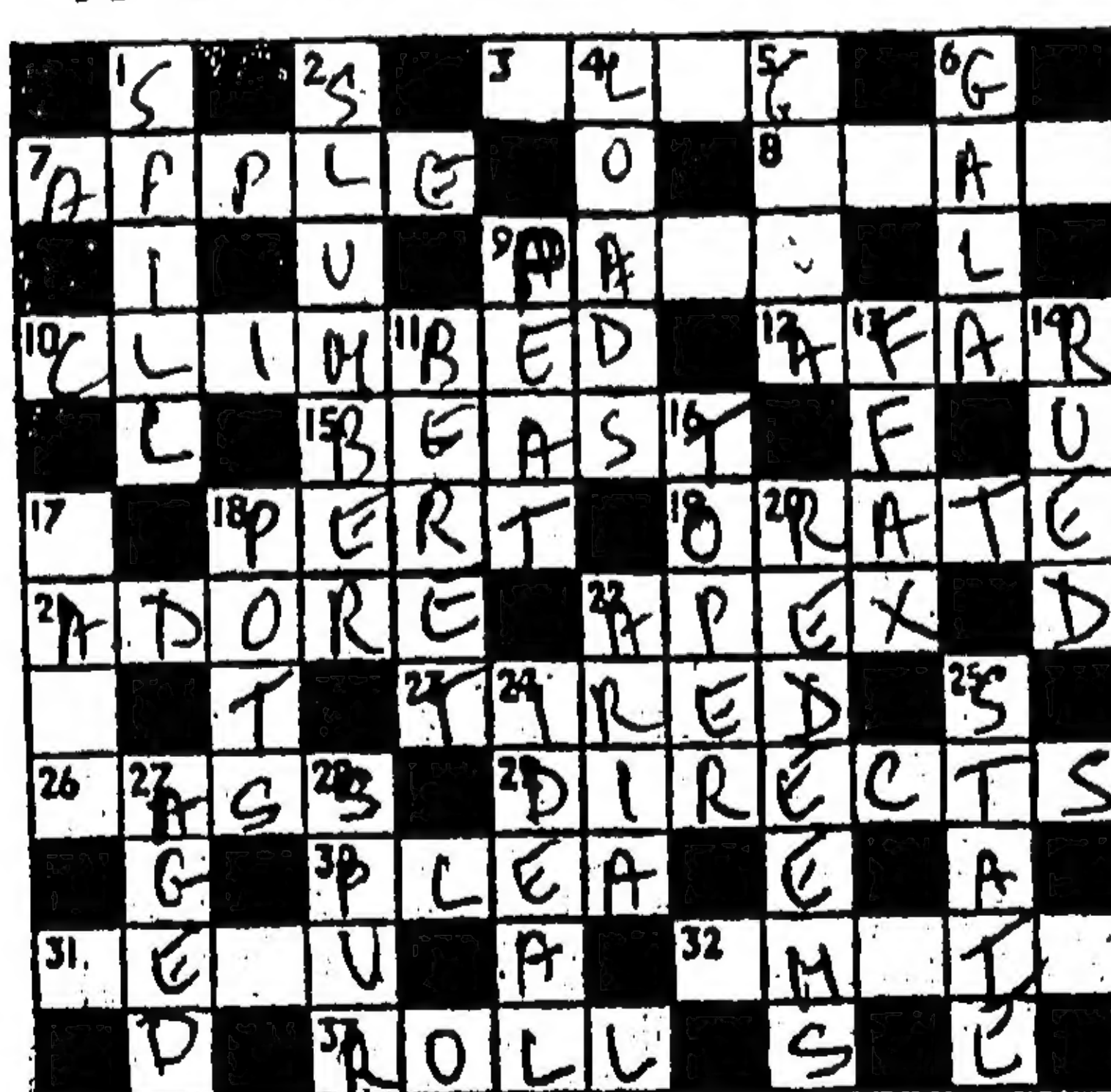
His first talk tomorrow will be with Signor Elio Vannoni, Budget Minister and author of an ambitious plan to create four million new jobs in Italy in the next ten years, and to transform the nation's industry.

Signor Vannoni will explore with M. Mendes-France the chances of increasing French investment in Italy.

During the rest of the day and for most of Wednesday M. Mendes-France will discuss a wide range of problems with Signor Mario Scelba, the Italian Premier, and Professor Gaetano Martino, Foreign Minister.

One aim of M. Mendes-France's Rome visit, it is believed, is to gain Italian support for his European arm production pool plan before he meets Dr Konrad Adenauer, the West German Chancellor, at Baden on Friday.

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 3 Pleased (4).
- 7 Fruit (5).
- 8 Absent (4).
- 9 Agreement (4).
- 10 Sealed (7).
- 12 At a distance (4).
- 13 Animal (5).
- 18 Saucy (4).
- 19 Speak (5).
- 21 Worship (5).
- 22 Highest point (4).
- 28 Weary (5).
- 29 Deaf (4).
- 30 Guides (7).
- 30 Excuse (4).
- 31 Dandy (5).
- 32 Likeness (5).
- 33 Registar (4).

DOWN

- 1 Upset (5).
- 2 Sleep (7).
- 4 Burdens (5).
- 5 Facts (4).
- 6 Felo (4).
- 8 Fuel (4).
- 11 Kind of cap (5).
- 13 Plant (4).
- 14 Regretted (4).
- 15 Heavy drinker (5).
- 17 Twist out of shape (4).
- 18 Vessels (4).
- 20 Ransom (7).
- 21 Perfect song (4).
- 22 Operatic (5).
- 23 Degree of progress (5).
- 27 Grow old (4).
- 28 Good (4).

SATURDAY'S CROSSWORD — Across: 1 Impet, 7 Rein, 9 Bliss, 10 Leave, 11 Cast, 13 Asplined, 15 Less, 16 Mumbo, 19 Promontory, 22 Dais, 24 Reels, 25 Ventrals, 26 Wily, 27 Devoid, 28 Want, 29 Molt, 30 Arcady, 31 Relish, 32 Bracelet, 33 Dile, 34 Evade, 35 Tasty, 36 Armed, 37 Ovaries, 38 Epile, 39 Amused, 40 Novel, 41 Owned, 42 Arid.

BRIDEGROOMS ALL HAVE THEIR TRIALS

By Harvey Day

It is curious how, all over the world the bridegroom is an object of commiseration. He often stages a wild stag party and has a last fling before surrendering into voluntary servitude.

Among some glib tribes it is customary at the wedding feast to provide a little blood from the wrists of bride and groom. This is eaten by the happy pair. And in Bulgaria the hands of the groom are tied to those of his bride so that he can't make a quick getaway.

At many marriage ceremonies traditional acts, whose meaning have now been lost, are still observed. In the remote parts of Scotland it was once the custom for the mother-in-law to break a plate of salt over the groom's head at the start of the feast. What an opportunity, if she disliked him, of using a plate made of rock salt!

Among Oriental Jews it is still usual for the bride to perform a leap over a large plate heaped with fish. Savage tribes have devised innumerable ordeals for the prospective groom to prove his manhood. Among the aborigines of Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, Australia, he has to lie for 15 days in the burning sun without sustenance. Only then is he considered fit for marriage.

Rice-throwing

The ancient custom of throwing rice comes from the tropics where rice is a symbol of fertility and is used in many marriage ceremonies. In the Celebes, for instance, they throw rice in order to prevent the groom's soul from flying away.

In the past, the male was almost invariably required to give some evidence of his superiority. Marriage by capture is still customary in Japanese country districts.

A few years ago Utaï Masi, a 17-year-old village belle, was on her way home from the public bath in Osaka when she was bundled into a car and kidnapped. Her brother led a rescue party and recovered her, but the groom, being a man of honour, fought back and snatched the girl away.

That year five marriages by capture were reported in

Osaka, and all five brides lived happily with their husbands. Incidentally, in each affair a dozen young men were maimed and the bride's house wrecked.

In some lands mock fights are staged in which the pair wrestle or fight until the bride is overcome and carried off. This was once a Cornish custom. Among the Makuan, a mock battle is staged in which both parties enter with gusto. The defeat of the bride is a cue for her father and mother to rush at the groom and beat him soundly with clubs—in a ceremonial way.

The Babar Islanders lock the bride in a dark room strewn with traps and pitfalls—nails for the bridegroom to tread on, booby traps, and string that entangles him. Eventually he finds her—even if it takes hours.

Rough Handling

In parts of Kamchatka men have an even thinner time. The bride is hidden under innumerable coverings, and the groom must find her and strip off every rag. Then only can she be his. Just before he succeeds, a gang of her friends rushes from hiding, beat and scratch him, and tear the bride away. When he recovers from their rough handling he has another go, and again they swoop. Faint heart, they say, never won fair lady!

The Betisiles of Madagascar try to impale the groom with spears, and he must show his skill at dodging. In New Guinea he is scarred with knives and tied in a bag with tiger ants.

In some of the islands of the East Indies he has to undergo an examination by a committee of women; if they approve, he is locked up for 40 days and fastened. And in many villages he is hated before the relatives of the bride who insult him with every abusive term in their fertile vocabulary. If he can stand that he can take anything the bride can say when she is nettled.

In prewar Albania a man seeking a woman into his house was considered to be legally married even though no ceremony had been performed. If after this her father refused to accept him, it was his duty to clasp with the girl.

Greatest Ordeal

If her father interfered, her lover was in honour bound to shoot him, and this always started one of those ruthless vendettas which last for generations. When the Italians took over Albania they ordered this custom to be abolished and laid down stiff penalties for those who broke the law.

Most marriage customs are based on the belief of man's superiority—and even the Christian service endorses this when it makes the man say, "With all my worldly goods I thee endow," and the bride promises that she will "love, honour and obey."

But the greatest ordeal of all marriage customs is that prevalent among the Wahle and Wagogo tribes of East Africa, where even the killing of a lion single-handed is not sufficient to prove a man's courage. The groom is required to sleep one night with the mother-in-law before he can place a finger on his bride. This, undoubtedly is the origin of the phrase "a fate worse than death."



Harry Odell says

I feel highly honoured to be able to announce what I believe will be the most brilliant event of this decade.

DAME SYBIL THORNDIKE and SIR LEWIS CASSON, England's distinguished artists, will give a recital of Shakespeare and poetry at the EMPIRE THEATRE on Wednesday, 16th February, 1955, at 9.30 p.m. A limited number of seats will be sold. For further particulars call International Films, Ltd., Telephone 21832.

PHOTOGRAPHS

by our Staff Photographers

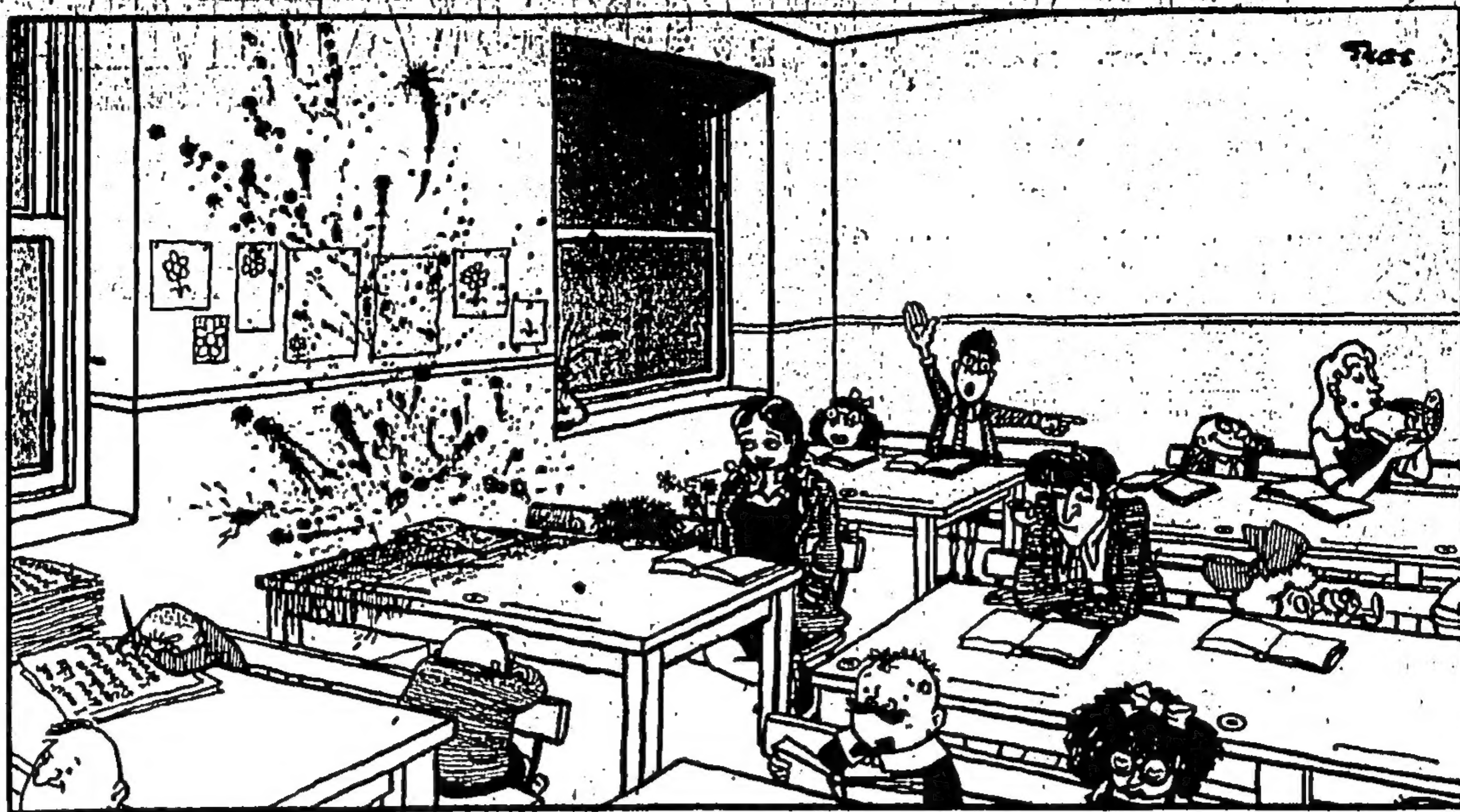
- Agricultural Show
- Sea Scout Party
- Seafarers' Exhibition
- Cardinal Soellman's Visit
- St. Andrew's Church Party
- Philippine Delegations
- Government House Garden Party
- Little Flower Club Annual Dinner
- Burmese National Day Celebration
- Dock Company Dinner
- ECAC CONFERENCE AND PARTIS
- Heep Yuan School Speech Day
- Opening of New Buddhist School
- S.P.C. Persian Buffet Supper
- Julius Katchen Cocktail Party
- Hongkong Union Church Party
- All Local Sports
- Local Presentations
- Local Weddings
- etc. etc.

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MEMO TO SIR DAVID ECCLES

WHO, AS MINISTER OF EDUCATION, HAS ANNOUNCED HIS NEW SCHOOL PLAN



"Sir! Smith says he LIKES the bad old mixed-age schools."

London Express Service

THE BEGINNING OF A GREAT ADVENTURE

I DIVE 7,000 FEET UNDER THE SEA

BY CLAUDE CHAMBARD



Commander Houot

4 A.M. As we drove under the archway into Toulon navy base, the sentry, recognising the lean and rangy silhouette of my companion, jumped to attention and saluted without asking for our passes.

"Our early rising habits on the bathyscaphe are getting us quite a reputation," Commander Houot told me with a grin.

The silence of the dockyard was broken only by the purring of our motor and the screech of the tyres. In the white glare of the electric lights the little submarine chasers lay huddled against the harbour wall. As we hurried round a corner, I could see the huge black mass of the battleship "Richelieu" outlined against the sky.

Houot parked the automobile alongside one of the repair shops.

"There she is—the bathyscaphe."

I followed Houot's pointing finger. On the inky waters of the dock, I could see a gleaming yellow hull with a central conning tower like a submarine.

I approached it cautiously, picking my way among steel hawsers which seemed to have been put there specially to trip me up.

BUOYANCY

THEN my rubber soles were skidding on the steel casing of the bathyscaphe. The reek of gasoline caught me by the throat. I was uneasy aware that I was standing on a tank containing over 17,000 gallons of highly inflammable liquid. I understood why the first thing Houot had said to me, when I called on him, was: "Have you got any rubber sneakers or, at least, some shoes without any nails or steel tips?"

The gasoline is not used as fuel. The bathyscaphe is in reality an "underwater balloon". It has a big buoyancy tank shaped like the hull of a midge submarine and filled with gasoline. The gasoline has the same function as the hydrogen or helium which gives buoyancy to a flying balloon. The crew of the bathyscaphe are crammed into a steel sphere underneath the buoyancy tank which is the equivalent of the gondola of a flying balloon.

The Nautilus. I felt a thrill of pride in the 10th century Frenchmen who were making it come true.

The harbour lights blinked red, then green. Our tug, the Samson, bore down on us and stopped on our beam. Usually the bathyscaphe is towed by the research ship "Eli Monnier" belonging to the French Navy's special branch for Undersea Research. But the "Eli Monnier" was having a refit in dry dock that day. This meant that, during our dive, we would not be able to keep in touch with the surface by ultrasonic Morse signals because the Samson was not equipped to receive them.

Once the tow had been made fast, we went aboard the tug and the little convoy picked up speed and steered for the open sea.

The diving point selected by Commander Houot, 8½ miles south of Cap Sicié, was only three hours steaming away. I could hardly believe that water well over a mile deep lay so close to the coast.

On board the Samson a copious breakfast put me in the mood for the day's work. While we were eating it in the wardroom, the bathyscaphe, trailing behind like a puppy on a lead, plunged and rolled in the first light of dawn.

UPKEEP

AFTER breakfast, I got talking to the coxswain of the bathyscaphe, a chief electrician. The coxswain, who is responsible for the upkeep of the bathyscaphe's intricate electrical apparatus, is a "submarine" of the old school. Before the war he spent twelve years in the submarine flotillas which were then the pride of France's powerful fleet. He has all the submarine's special pride in his "boat".

When he was picked to look after the bathyscaphe, he was the coxswain of the bathyscaphe, a chief electrician. The coxswain, who is responsible for the upkeep of the bathyscaphe's intricate electrical apparatus, is a "submarine" of the old school. Before the war he spent twelve years in the submarine flotillas which were then the pride of France's powerful fleet. He has all the submarine's special pride in his "boat".

CONVOY

WHAT if the contraption did not come up again? What if it caught fire on the surface and plummeted to the bottom with Houot and me trapped in the steel sphere and the buoyancy tank ripped open by the heat? What if we hit a wreck or surfaced right underneath a ship which had strayed into the diving zone?

The night before the trip, I had dined with two friends in the gardens of what was once the home of the futurist writer Jules Verne, whose book "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" first pictured men navigating in the ocean depths. The restaurant, which is the Moulinet promenade overlooking the sea, bears the name of the celebrated submarine of Jules Verne's Captain Nemo.

planning to take a well-paid and comfortable civilian job. But the chance to serve the bathyscaphe changed all that. He stayed in the navy and is virtually never off-duty, for looking after the bathyscaphe is a round-the-clock mission. His most important responsibility is the delicate task of watching the charge on the accumulators. Everything depends on these accumulators. The ballast, the guide-rope and two of the batteries are held in position by electro-magnets while current is required for the searchlights, the motor and the apparatus installed in the sphere.

The coxswain told me: "Last week one of the dockyard workers in the base shouted at me: 'Hasn't he thing sunk yet?'—I got real mad. What the hell has that got to do with you?—I yelled at him. I could have wrung his silly neck. He went off looking as stupid as never. Men like that just don't understand how you can feel about your ship."

HAGGARD

A SMART-LOOKING launch, more like a millionaire's yacht than a Navy ship, swept up alongside the Samson. It belonged to the Undersea Research Group. The little craft nuzzled in close. An officer was waving to catch our attention. Cupping his hands, he bawled across to us:

"We can smell gasoline a long way astern of the bathyscaphe. Tell the commander."

Houot, who had been snatching a rest below, appeared on deck, his face haggard with lack of sleep. The bathyscaphe is his entire responsibility and he must watch every detail whether it be paperwork, engineering or seamanship.

The convoy stopped. The Samson launched her searchlight and Houot went away in it to check up on the bathyscaphe. The sea rocked with a gentle swell. The sky was a dirty grey through which the sun gleamed dimly. To the eastward, the

Claude Chambard, correspondent of the Agence Franco-Presso, is the first journalist ever to make a plunge into the ocean depths in the bathyscaphe of French Navy Commander Georges Houot. He is the first civilian "passenger" to make a really deep dive and the fifth man in the world to have reached the depth of 7,000 feet (1 1/3 miles). In this series he gives the first eyewitness account by an independent observer of how man is on the way to realising Jules Verne's dream of "Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea."

Glen peninsula and the Hyères Islands lay along the horizon.

When Houot returned to the tug, he seemed preoccupied but his report was reassuring. "There's nothing wrong. It's simply a bit of gasoline seeping near. But the water is very warm and we may have trouble in submerging."

The buoyancy of the bathyscaphe is calculated on the difference in density between the gasoline and the seawater. If the craft is trimmed a bit light, it is enough to cause difficulty in getting her under. The time passed quickly. From the bridge of the tug, it looked over the Mediterranean as calm as a mill-pond. Strangely I felt less apprehensive, now that the moment was near, than when I first learned to dive head first into a swimming pool.

"Stop the engines," ordered the skipper of the tug. The boat of the engines, died away and the Samson glided to a halt. We had arrived. A seaman looked at me and shook his head pityingly. "He seemed to be thinking," he said. "The bathyscaphe is completely nuts. They can't be bothered to go to sea on the surface. Straight away they want to start poking around in Davey Jones' locker."

World Copyright 1954 (To be continued tomorrow)

REMAINS OF BRITAIN'S ROMAN PAST

By J. W. TAYLOR

FURTHER recent Roman discoveries in several parts of Britain, including the unearthing of the temple of Mithras behind London's Mansion House, has led to increasing public interest in the story of the colourful Roman past, none more so than in the Northwest, where the country is rich in remains of the Roman occupation of Britain, with Chester, the ancient Legionary fortress of Deva, the centre and focus of it all.

One Chester and gave all the details of the conditions of service of a Roman Legionary, with a striking similarity to those of the National Serviceman of today. It was in Chester that the famous fighting Legion, Legio XX Valeria Victrix, "The Twentieth, the Valorous, the Victorious," was garrisoned.

Like the Army of today, their infantry division had a divisional sign which the soldiers left inscribed on the fortifications they erected. It was of a wild boar running, surrounded with the crudely inscribed "LEG XX" beneath a man's head.

From Chester, the Legion soldiers built a road northwards to Widderspool, near Warrington, where traces of a military camp have been found. Then on to Ribchester and Lancaster, where altars, walls and baths have shown evidence of long occupation by the Romans. To the east went a military road to the fort of Coccum, now hidden beneath the centre of industrial Wigan.

At the City of Chester Museum, where the Chester of Roman times is the chief centre of interest, an exhibited document tabulates the conditions of service of the Roman soldier, including those relating to kit checks and daily rates of pay, deductions for losses of equipment and barracks damages and allotments to be made to dependants. For the man, with 20 years' satisfactory service there was an honourable discharge and a pension in the form of a land grant.

SERVICE CONDITIONS

At the little village of Ribchester, a few miles up the Ribble from Preston, children digging on the river bank unearthed a bronze Roman helmet complete with mask. It was a wonderful piece of work and craftsmanship, skillfully worked with the figures of gladiators and horses adorning the forehead. Experts have confirmed that it was a ceremonial helmet worn by auxiliaries on special occasions, but probably kept in the barracks just as ceremonial armour, not used in our churches today.

Further exploration of the site on which the helmet was found led to the discovery of temple and other Roman relics, including a stone with an inscription relating how a certain Titus Flavius Natalis, commander-in-chief of the regiment and governor of the occupied district, had, in accordance with the wish of the god, restored the temple and dedicated it.

CONFUSED MASS

The names of the mentioned god were inscribed on it, but it was possible to decipher the inscription to the beginning of the third century AD. The tablet is now in the keeping of St. John's College, Cambridge; the helmet rests in the British Museum.

A second excavation of this Ribchester site revealed a confused mass of broken Roman pottery, metalwork and smashed stonework, with a sprinkling here and there of the skeletons of all powerful men of the military type. It told an old tale of ancient wars of a Roman Britain deserted by the legions at the end of the occupation; of a scorching earth policy adopted after failure to hold on to the barbarous Northern tribes; of a hopeless defence of Ribchester and a courageous last stand in the temple until the burning roof and great portico had crashed down upon the last of the heroic defenders.

Searchlight on South Africa... by Rene MacColl

THE MAN IN THE PLANE ATTACKS THE MISSIONARIES FOR MEDDLING

It is not often that all passengers in an airliner leap to their feet to stare awestricken downwards at a hole in the ground below.

That is what everyone did in the plane which brought me to Capetown from Johannesburg.

It was no ordinary hole. From it was taken the stuff that illuminates a couple of billion engagements rings—a place by name of Kimberley.

This minor excitement brought me into conversation with the chap next to me. He was short, slender, well dressed, with a good profile, intelligent eyes, and a little silky, curly, graying beard.

He was Albert Hertzig, Nationalist member of South Africa's Parliament, a barrister, and a son of the Boer general.

"We got on to the question of the Protectorates—Bechuanaland, Basutoland, and Swaziland, which are tribal enclaves (total population, just over 1,000,000) in the Union of South Africa but run by Britain, not the Union."

The Nationalists of South Africa think it is Britain's "moral obligation" to hand over these native territories.

MORAL OBLIGATION

I mentioned to Mr. Hertzig that many people in Britain feel there is a moral obligation not to hand over the Protectorates. I asked why South Africa, which is deeply concerned over the question of how to deal with her own million of coloured people, wants to add these many more to the problem.

Mr. Hertzig replied with a sharp attack on the missionaries, who he contends, have wrought

terrible harm by "meddling".

The missionaries, he says, have already largely destroyed the old tribal discipline and authority of the African chiefs.

"It will be a long and laborious task to restore the authority of these chiefs," and thus to restore a sense of discipline and proper respect among the natives for their own higher authority," he went on.

"You British in Rhodesia are building up towards an appalling disaster—a blood bath perhaps, simply because you refuse to face the facts."

"We Africans have known and lived with the African for hundreds of years. We know what is best for him, and what makes him happy."

"It is folly to give him a special education, and an imitation European and an inferior white man."

for you—the very people who have betrayed him and given him a sense of responsibility.

"When we see the harm that has been done by the missionaries—we may be just in time to undo it in South Africa—do you think we are going to stand by and watch the missionaries go about their senseless disastrous policy in these three Protectorates?"

WANT CONTROL

"No. We must take over the administration of the 'Protectorates' so that we can have full control over the destinies of the Bantu, the Bechuanas, and the Basuto."

After all, great proportions of these three races are already living and working in the Union, and should we not control them? We should, we know, the

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saysI feel highly honoured to
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England's distinguished
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EMPIRE THEATRE on Wed-
nesday, 16th February, 1955,
at 9.30 p.m. A limited
number of seats will be sold.
For further particulars call
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Two Int'l Trade Fairs At Leipzig This Year

Berlin, Jan. 9.

The Soviet Union, Communist China and
other Communist countries will take part in this
year's Leipzig Spring Trade Fair with an enlarged
exhibition, according to East Berlin radio.Britain will also take a pro-
minent place in the fair.France will be represented for
the first time and the West
German stand will be twice the
size of previous ones.Exhibitions by the Communist
countries will be bigger than
ever, the radio said, and they
will send larger trade dele-
gations.(There will be two Leipzig
fairs this year, one in the spring
and one in autumn, for the first
time since before the war. The
spring fair will be from
February 27 to March 9).—
Reuter.

Safety Service In Bar

Wellington, Jan. 9.

A safety service for the benefit
of motorists has been initiated
by a Wellington publican.In the bars of his hotel,
posters are displayed encourag-
ing drivers who have taken "one
too many" to leave their car
keys at the office, where a taxi
will be summoned for them.
Their cars will be safely parked
until the following day.—China
Mail Special.

BIG TIMBER MILL

Dehra Doon, Uttar

Pradesh, Jan. 9.

The Andaman Islands in
the Bay of Bengal has one
of the biggest timber mills
in the world, a report
presented to the fourth
World Forestry Congress
here stated.An eight feet band mill,
situated at Port Blair,
which is now nearing com-
pletion, currently handles
two hundred tons of timber
a day, according to the re-
port.The islands, covering an
area of 2,508 square miles
are well-known for their
timber resources. The
Andaman forests, which
cover an area of 1,800
square miles, yield 65,000
tons of timber, giving an
annual revenue of 7 million
rupees (£437,500).—Reu-
ter.

End Occupation Appeal

Vienna, Jan. 9.

The Austrian Chancellor,
Herr Julius Raab, today ap-
peared for an early meeting of
the Big Four powers to discuss
the problem of Austria.In a broadcast, he said that
solution of the Austrian problem
—ending the occupation of
Austria—would probably be the
most important step towards
world peace. His country
wanted to live in peace with all
its neighbours and would always
attempt to "ease tension among
them".—Reuter.

Unfair Practices Alleged By Danish Retailers

Copenhagen, Jan. 9.

The more staid and more conservative Danish
retailers, especially those selling food in Copen-
hagen, are up in arms against their more
enterprising competitors who are using what
they declare to be unfair and disloyal trading
methods to attract custom.Danes have good appetites and housewives
are lavish, but discriminating buyers.Some of the methods used to persuade customers
to transfer their custom from one shop to another are
novel.Lottery schemes, in which
the customer pays nothing for
his ticket and his right to
share in the prizes, are the
most favoured.

LOTTERY

For instance, a butcher
in one of Copenhagen's
busiest shopping districts
runs a lottery every week.
The chief prize is a large
joint of pork. But he gives
plenty of other prizes rang-
ing from a big juicy steak
to a few pounds of delect-
able sausage.Everyone, on making a pur-
chase, receives a numbered
receipt. Counterfoils of these
numbers are mixed in the
approved way and the butcher's
21-year-old daughter
picks out the winning numbers.
These are displayed in the shop
window for all to see.This butcher has found his
scheme very successful, and
his rivals are complaining. He
replies: "Let them do the same
if they want to. Nothing stops
them."This movement started some
months back when the Govern-
ment issued a regulation for-
bidding manufacturers to fix
the retail prices of their pro-
ducts. As a result, retailers
have since observed no uni-
formity of prices, the differ-
ences even in the case of small
quantities often amounting to
several pence.After this, many shopkeepers
started having what their com-
petitors called "decoy lines,"
which resulted in items such as
coffee being sold at often
absurdly uneconomic prices.
This method is also being
attacked as disloyal.Some retailers are issuing
crossword puzzles and little
booklets of puzzles, for which
prizes are offered.The Danish lottery law
stipulates that lotteries are only
legal if a purchase is made a
condition for taking part in it.
But in spite of this, owing to
difficulties of interpretation,
butchers and others who use
the numbers on their receipts
as lottery numbers just escape
the law. An appeal to a higher
court might conceivably upset
this position.

UNLUCKY NUMBERS

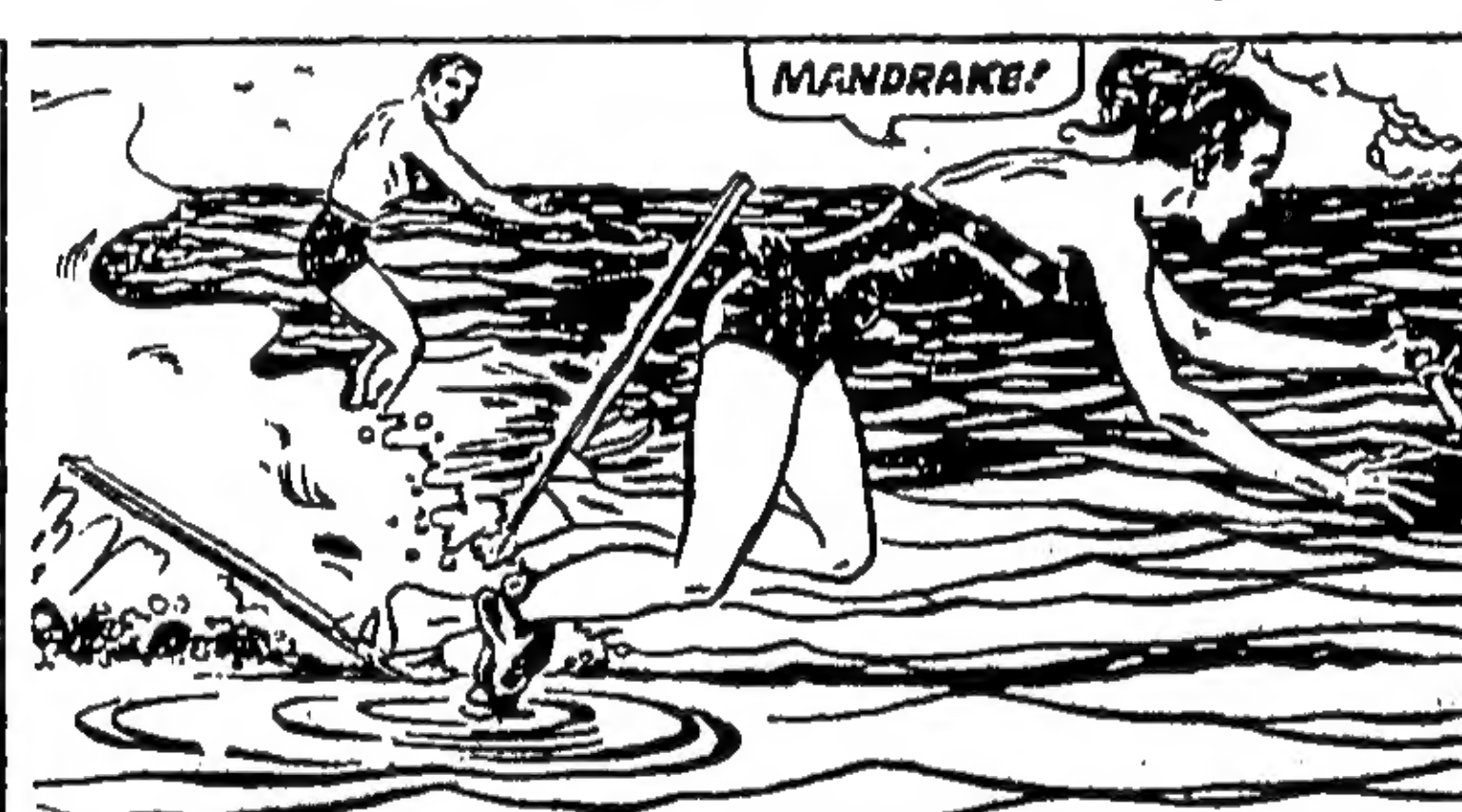
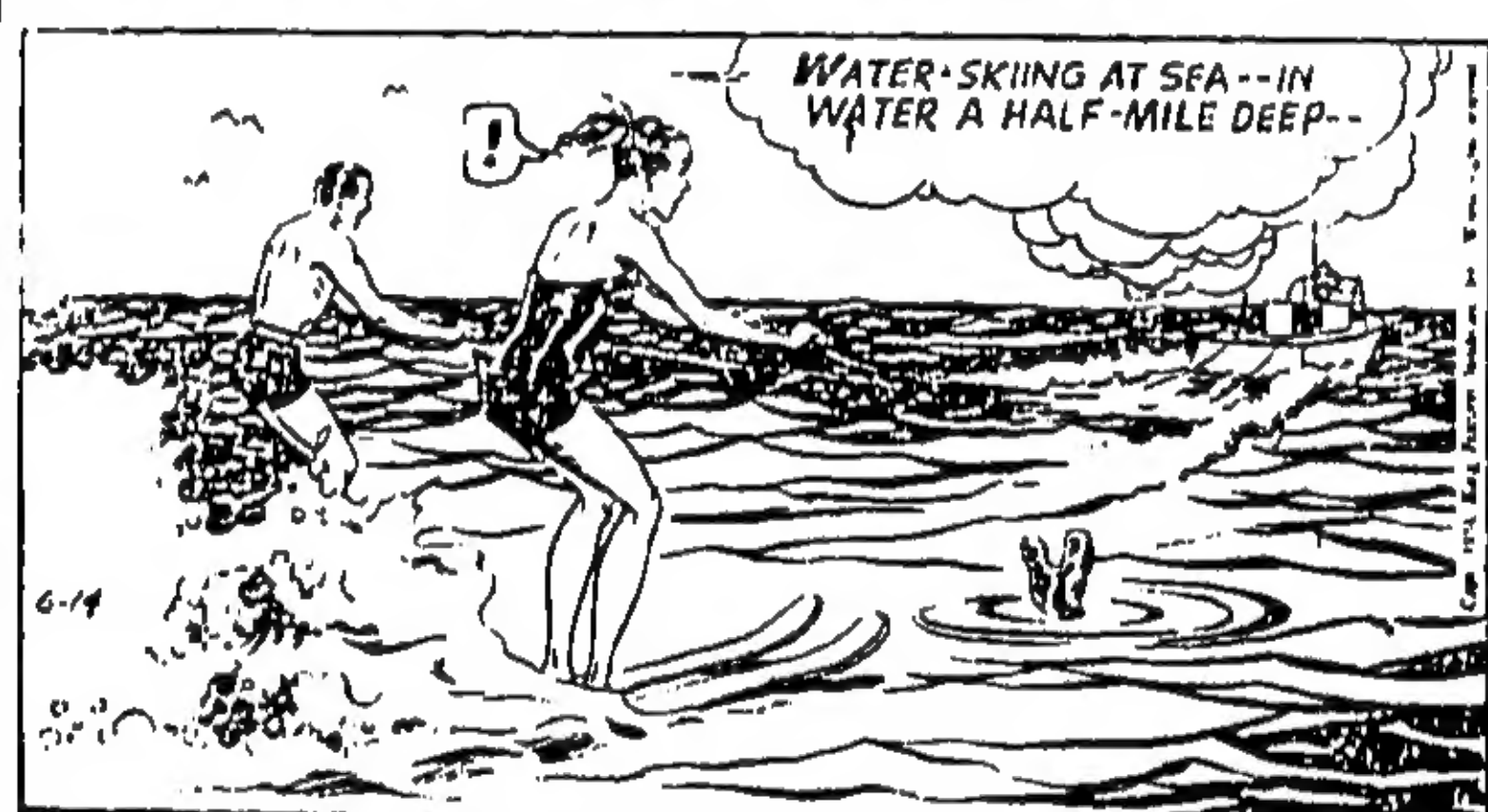
Other retailers place lottery
numbers on their goods
and the purchaser is given
the number for taking part in it.
But in spite of this, owing to
difficulties of interpretation,
butchers and others who use
the numbers on their receipts
as lottery numbers just escape
the law. An appeal to a higher
court might conceivably upset
this position.The Association of Copen-
hagen Retailers has asked the
Ministry of Justice to alter the
law on lotteries in such a
sweeping fashion that all lot-
teries of any kind conducted
by traders would be for-
bidden.This would hit particularly
hard the popular Christmas
lotteries, in which the first
prizes in Denmark are always
geese.The legislation proposed by
the Copenhagen retailers is so
formidably drafted that it
would even stop the crossword
puzzle prizes offered by the
Danish newspapers. These in
some cases are very large.One evening newspaper has
a crossword puzzle every Sat-
urday filling a whole page. A few
Sunday newspapers do the same.
Now lawyers are looking for a
formula which would confine
the effects of this legislation to
operations by retail traders and
would exempt newspapers.The majority of staid shop-
keepers maintain that lotteries
and similar inducements to
customers are not straightforward
trading and service, and
that if pushed much further
would lead to all sorts of com-
plications and undermine the
basis of retail trade, namely
that for an agreed price the
customer obtains an agreed
article."Dividends" given by co-
operative retail stores and
many other shops are not yet
openly attacked. Presumably
the Retailers' Association feels
that it might be taking on too
big a task to attack such a long
established practice. It is ob-
viously easier to attack an
enterprising minority.

MAIN COMPLAINTS

The main weight of the
complaints comes from the
thousands of small shop-
keepers who compete with
one another for sometimes
very little trade. Con-
sequently, many of them
find it difficult to make
ends meet and have no
money to spare to start
lotteries.In Denmark, anyway, there
is little risk of many food re-
tailers going bankrupt. The
latest figures show that
the average consumption of
food in Denmark is no less than
3,200 calories a day—roughly
500 calories more than are
needed to keep all but the
hardest manual workers, and
there are few of these in Den-
mark, strong and healthy.It is estimated that if Danes
would consume only 2,000
calories a day, which would still
leave them ahead of all other
European nations, they would
save a total of 525,000 million
calories a year, equivalent to an
increase in food exports of 10
per cent. (about 215,000,000
cwt.) above 215,000,000 cwt.
a year. This would go a long way
towards closing the present
serious gap in Denmark's
balance of payments.—China
Mail Special.

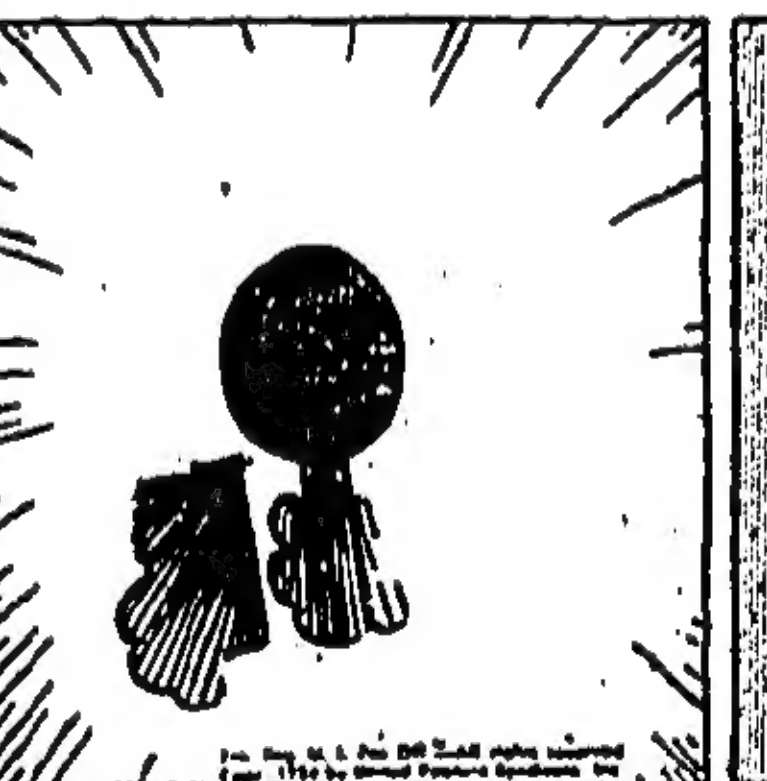
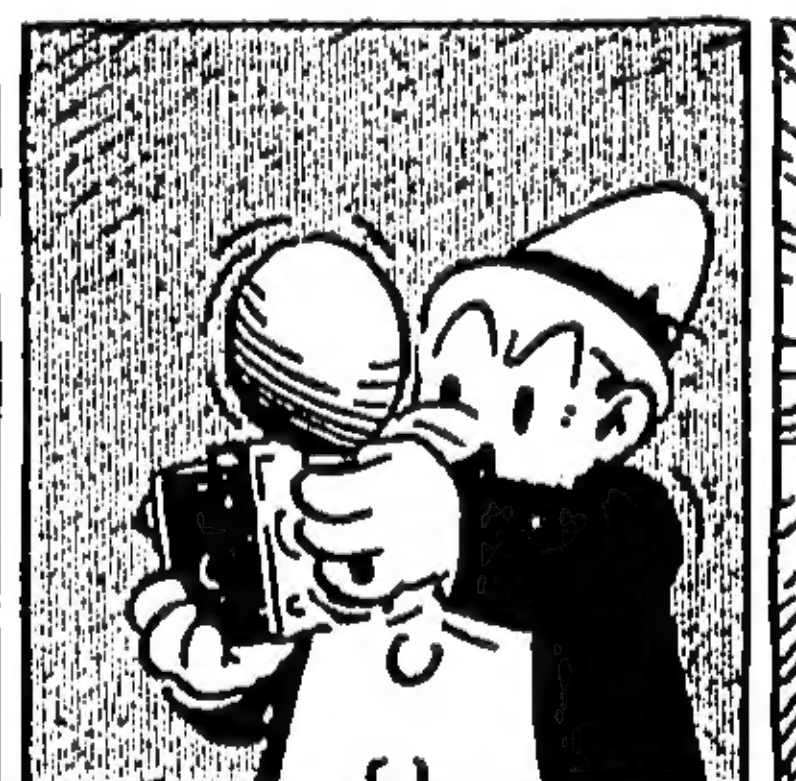
MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



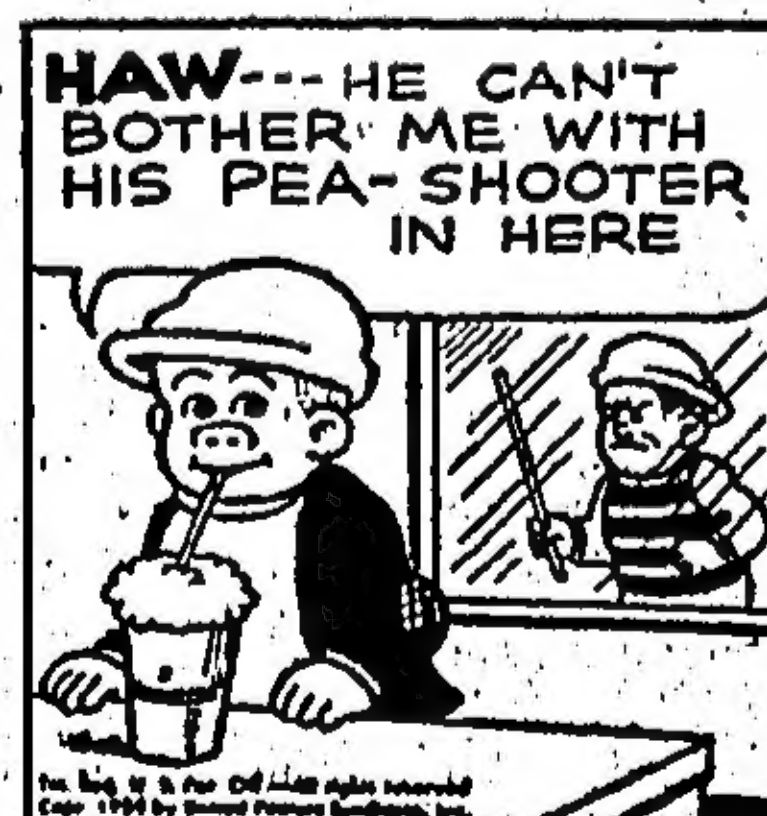
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MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 1956.



JOHN CLARKE'S
CASEBOOK

CLEANING WINDOWS

EACH morning the window-cleaners set off for work, armed by the firm that employed them with the tools of their trade and a list of the jobs that had to be done.

They were a cheerful gang. Each was possessed of many gifts—a head for heights which a scotchman might envy, tact and discretion, and remarkable dexterity in navigating a ladder through London's rush-hour traffic with one hand on the bucket-burdened handlebars and the other controlling a ladder.

The window-cleaners were industrious, too. Some went about their work with such a will, and so quickly, that they found time in a day to undertake some window-cleaning on their own account as well as working on the firm's behalf.

A PARTNER
SUCH a one was Jack, a dark-haired, long-faced man of 24, who earned himself a present subsidiary income, over and above the £10 a week his firm paid him, by free-lance work on windows.

In a cafe, one recent evening, Jack encountered a stranger whom he evidently recognized with his descriptions of a window-cleaner's life that by the end of the evening the pair had decided to go into partnership.

"Tell you what," said Jack. "I'm doing a place Monday. It's a house I do regular. For myself, of course. You come along and we'll see how it goes."

IRON BARS DO NOT
TIE, where they planned to put their partnership to trial. The house seemed to be empty of people.

"Well, well," said Jack. He glanced over the house's facade with his expert eye. "They've gone and left a window open up there."

"Yes, but there's bars across it," said Jack.

"Mummen," Jack put his ladder to the wall, close to the window. He and his friend climbed up. They found it simple to slip through the bars into the house, SELF-HELP.

INSIDE the house they helped themselves to as much as they could conveniently carry. A pair of binoculars, a silver clock, jewellery, two wrist-watches.

Then they left. And whether or not they gave the windows a courtesy-clean on their way out was not yet been made public.

It did not take the police long to catch up with Jack, though his friend disappeared as thoroughly and absolutely as a mirage does when the sun goes down.

"A MENACE
"What's then anyone known?" asked Mr. T. F. Davis, the magistrate.

There was Jack had first been caught stealing when he was 14. Other convictions had followed.

Then an approved school had seemed to put an end to his criminal career.

"What do you want to say to me?" the magistrate asked.

"Only I'm very sorry," said Jack.

"You're a menace," said the magistrate. "How's your only son person entitled to do a window-cleaner's job, and that's a perfectly honest man. Go to prison for six months."

Jack sighed, turned and left. Now he is in a place where all of the windows are barred, so that no one can enter that way and no one can leave.

Chinese Naval
Rating Dies
After Accident

On Monday, January 9, Able Seaman Yip Kau of H.M. T.S. Endeavour was injured in an accident on board the tug and shortly afterwards was admitted to the Royal Naval Hospital, Hong Kong.

He died on Friday, January 13, and was buried on Sunday. This was announced by the Public Relations Officer today.

Quie Brings Action Against 3 Hongkong Doctors

Joseph Leslie Quie, merchant, today brought an action claiming \$250,000 damages for alleged injury to himself from the defendants' negligence in connection with his detention in a mental home for observation, or for the certification of the plaintiff as being of unsound mind.

The case is before the Acting Chief Justice, Mr. Justice T. J. Gaudin in the Supreme Court this morning.

Defendants named in the action are Dr. P. M. Yap of the Mental Hospital, Dr. S. H. Moore of the Medical Department and Professor A. J. S. McFadden of Queen Mary Hospital.

Appearing for the plaintiff is Mr. John McNeill, QC, Mr. Lawrence Leung and Mr. R. W. S. Winter. Mr. W. A. Blair-Kerr, Senior Crown Counsel, and Mr. J. C. McRobert, Crown Counsel, are representing defendants.

JURY EMPANELLED

The damages claimed are \$130,000 for damages to the plaintiff's health and \$119,000 for special damages. A jury of three men and four women has been empanelled.

Opening the case for the plaintiff, Mr. McNeill said his client was fully conscious of the gravity of the allegations which he was making. He had in effect said that the defendants were negligent in the performance of the duties of their profession.

His client understood that that was a grave allegation to make against any professional man but, when Counsel told the story to the jury they would at once appreciate the frightening character of that story.

Mr. McNeill said that the charges were grave, but what could be more frightening, more terrifying than to be taken out from one's life and put into what was in effect a lunatic asylum, "and to have branded upon you the stigma of being a lunatic."

After giving the positions which the defendants are holding, Counsel went on to say that his client was a self-made man. His father was a seaman but he had brains and a sense of financial acumen, and made quite substantial sums of money.

BROUGHT UP IN U.K.

Counsel said his client was brought up in the United Kingdom and came to Hong Kong at the age of 18 years. He had a short period of service in a Government department here and shortly afterwards he joined the firm of John D. Humphreys and Company, Importers and Sellers in land and they built houses, Counsel explained.

He went on to say that Humphreys was a partnership firm. They were general managers of A.S. Watson and Co., Importers and Sellers in land and of the Peak Tramways.

In 1929 Mr. Quie became Secretary of Humphreys and thus from that time until his retirement at a much later date he had many opportunities of seeing how the finances of the Company were arranged for the purchase of land, he was able to have access to see the conduct of the Peak Tramways and big companies like Watson's. It was quite clear, Counsel said, that his client was a gentleman of substantial experience in financial matters and matters relating to land.

DID SOME BUSINESS

In 1928 Mr. Quie did some business outside the firm's business. He took a lease of some 28 flats in Nathan Road and then re-let them at a good profit.

In 1937 Mr. Quie became interested in another project which was the rearing and breeding of pigs in the New Territories. He formed a company called Q.B. Piggeries and in that company he was associated with a number of important shareholders, including Mr. Lawrence Kadocic, whom he had known for many years.

Mr. McNeill said that in 1941 Mr. Quie, who was in the Hong Kong Volunteer Corps, was taken prisoner and incarcerated in Shanghai Camp. He was released by way of China to India where he was attached to the 1st Gloucester Regiment. He worked his way up to the rank of sergeant and subsequently applied for and obtained a commission. He later became a Captain, and later still was attached to the Intelligence Department of the Army.

On April 3, a certificate of insanity was signed by Mr. McNeill, Mr. McNeill is continuing with his opening address to the jury.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"Mom thinks everybody who whizzes past our house 35 miles an hour says, 'My goodness! What dirty windows!'"

JULIUS KATCHEN'S LAST CONCERT

It was with the feeling of revisiting an old friend that we went to the third and last of Julius Katchen's piano recitals last night at the Empire Theatre, and it was with real regret that we parted from him after another brilliant and entirely satisfying concert.

After hearing his Mozart, Beethoven and Schumann, it was no surprise that Katchen played the opening work of the concert, Mozart's A major Sonata K.331, with simple delicacy and without the exaggerated bravado sometimes used in the "Turkish" last movement. This was how the Sonata should be played, and it has been the keynote of Katchen's performances that his renderings are just as they should be, and that if less gifted of us were able to play so superbly, that is how we should do it.

The Beethoven 32 Variations on a theme in C minor, which followed, is not of the same greatness as the two Sonatas already played, but though each variation is very short, the work has consistency and continuity. Katchen is a fine Beethoven player; after these three concerts, the opinion can be safely expressed that he is at his best in Beethoven and Brahms. It would be interesting to hear him play more Bach; next time he comes, let us have more of this greatest master of all.

The last work in the first half of the concert was Schumann's Fantasy in C, op.17. Mr. Katchen adopted the same method as at his first concert and gave an explanation of the three movements of the Fantasy which, as he indicated, is an extremely romantic work and contains much poetry and expression of inner feeling. The first movement, which reveals his love for Clara Wieck whom he later married, is reminiscent of the great song cycle "Dichterliebe" or "The Poet's Love. It is emotional, but not sentimental in the way that a good many of Schumann's compositions are of extreme sentimentality. It is a virile expression of inner feeling and was interpreted in this way by Julius Katchen.

It has been a memorable experience for all music lovers in Hong Kong to be treated to three recitals of such excellence; we are grateful to Mr. Harry Odell for his far-sightedness and enterprise in making it possible for us to hear Mr. Katchen and all the other great artists he has brought. Julius Katchen's place among the great pianists of the world is assured, and so is his warm welcome whenever he returns to Hong Kong.—XX

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Britain Plans To Avoid Jet Plane Production Delays

From Our Own Correspondent

London, Jan. 9.

The war-time Ministry of Aircraft Production may be revived to meet the grave delays in delivery of jet aircraft to the R.A.F. and the Royal Navy.

Service chiefs and the Ministers of Defence and Supply are in close contact during the present Parliamentary recess, considering the suggestion—made by Sir Winston Churchill in the Commons.

The Ministry of Aircraft Production turned out 125,000 warplanes from 1940, when it was created, until April 1946, when it was abolished by the Socialist Government.

Now, fewer than 40 sweeping fighters are in actual service with the R.A.F., after an expenditure of hundreds of millions of pounds—although approximately 140 have been delivered.

The Prime Minister, when the House last sat, replying to Mr. Woodrow Wyatt (Soc., Aston) said: "The life of an aircraft in the process of construction far exceeds the life of an individual Minister of Supply, far exceeds it, maybe twice or thrice as long, with all the preparations."

"It raises in my mind the broad general question of whether a special Ministry should not be re-created to deal with the prolonged process of production."

At the same time the Prime Minister gave the House an assurance that the problems of delay would be settled. There would be a "satisfactory flow" of planes before "the period of comparative safety in which we are living has elapsed."

RED TAPE
Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, the Minister of Supply, has ordered an all-out attack on red tape, which is believed to be hampering the production of fighters.

This emerged after Tory M.P.s had closely questioned the Air Minister, Lord De L'Isle and Dudley, and his Under-Secretary, Mr. George Ward, at a private meeting.

The Air Minister dealt frankly with the problem and answered many criticisms of the chief of staffs that there are too many departments standing between the manufacturers and the R.A.F.

But the party is disturbed about the situation, and through the Air Committee—a subsidiary of the main Defence Committee.

No Big Army For SEATO

London, Jan. 9.

The United States and Britain have agreed in principle to forgo a big NATO-type standing army on the Southeast Asian hot spot covered by SEATO, reliable diplomatic sources said today.

The two countries chose instead to rely on American mobile striking power—co-ordinated with British, Australian and New Zealand forces in the area—for the defence of Southeast Asia against further Communist advances.

The U.S. and Britain were understood to have reached agreement that political and economic measures must be given priority equal to military preparations to counter Communist subversion in the critically exposed SEATO sector.

Plans for the early creation in Asia of an elaborate SEATO military organization—as a counterpart to NATO in Europe—have been quietly abandoned for the time being, the sources said.

The two countries, having reached over their earlier differences on Asian defence policy, are nearing agreement on the structure of SEATO, which will be formally hammered out at the eight-nation conference in Bangkok next month.

Considerable "backwash" has been done in expert negotiations in Washington in recent weeks, officials disclosed.

But shopkeepers for SEATO and its future scope still require close consultations between American and British diplomats before they are submitted to the Foreign Ministers conference at the Manila Pact nations on February 24-25 next.

Seaman Who Missed Ship Gets One Month In Prison

Pleading guilty to negligently remaining in the Colony after the departure of his ship, a 45-year old Malayan seaman, Tjundin Bin Ahmad, was sentenced to a month's imprisonment by the District Court on Sunday morning.

The Prosecution revealed that defendant left his ship, the mv Cingalese Prince, at the Taitoko Dockyard at 10 a.m. last Friday and when he returned at 6 p.m., the ship had sailed. Defendant, who surrendered himself to the Marine Department on Sunday morning, said he left the ship for shopping.

Mr. Calma further ordered that defendant be held in a House of Detention pending arrangements to be made by the agents for his repatriation after serving his term.

Princess Margaret Attends Christening

Woodstock, Jan. 9.
Princess Margaret was at the christening today, godmother of the two-month-old son of Mr. Charles and Lady Rosemary Malt.

The baby was named Alexander. The baby's mother is a daughter of the Duke of Devonshire and the Duke of Marlborough.

In the church the Princess took the baby to her arms and held him almost "through the service." Mrs. Malt, Special

From Our Files

100 Years Ago

A murder, accompanied by circumstances of singular and brutal ferocity, is reported to have been committed at Canton, by four of the crew of the American reeling ship, upon the person of a Chinese tailor, the father of a family of four children, and who has been settled on the island ever since the place became an Opium Station. We refrain from saying more on the subject until we learn what steps are taken in the matter by the United States authorities, in whose hands the matter rests.

The following Notifications relating to protection have recently been issued from the Canton Consulate. The first is, we suppose, intended as an intimation of the provision contained in section 40 of the Order in Council of 13th June, 1853, to which the Notification ought to have made reference; otherwise, there is nothing remarkable about it, beyond its appearance while "evil was apprehended. It does not, any more than the Order in Council, guarantee protection of either person or property to registered British subjects, but only warns those who do not register that they are neither to "desire nor expect protection," not even such as might be afforded by an efficient naval squadron; but which in its present deplorable inefficiency the civil power cannot control. The second Notification may have grown out of the first, or at all event out of the perilous condition in which Canton is supposed to be placed. Whether or not there would have been any great danger, had it not been fostered by naval perversity, the Notification is an exemplification of that "prudence and precaution," which the Plenipotentiary recommends to the Queen's subjects. It is calculated to afford them little satisfaction, however, and accordingly, we understand they have applied to the Plenipotentiary for an explanation. But His Excellency can hardly make his meaning plainer than in the Notification itself, and the British community must therefore provide for their own safety, either by quitting Canton, or adopting measures of protection on the spot. The Americans too have had what they call an indignation Meeting, to denounce the unconcern of their naval Commander.

NOTIFICATION.

British Consulate, Canton, 19th December, 1854.
The undersigned has to notify that all British Subjects, who desire or expect protection, and who have not yet registered their names, must appear at this office and enter them on the Register, on or before the 31st instant.

D. B. ROBERTSON,
Consul.

NOTIFICATION.

British Consulate, Canton, 29th December, 1854.
The undersigned has been directed by His Excellency Sir John Bowring, Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary, &c., &c., to communicate for the information of all British Subjects who have lodged in the office of Her Majesty's Consul, Canton, that His Excellency is quite willing that the Consulate should receive these and any similar statements; but he cannot undertake any responsibility on the part of Her Majesty's Government to secure this or other property, should it be exposed to damage or loss under the present critical circumstances of this port, or engage to enforce upon the existing or any future Chinese Authorities indemnity for such loss or damage. Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary has been instructed to state, that every prudence and precaution is required from the Merchants, and that the action of Her Majesty's Government in the event of injury suffered by the Queen's Subjects will depend on the view it may take of any particular case.

D. B. ROBERTSON,
Consul Officiating,
To the British Community, at Canton.

British Staff
Resigns In Sudan

Charlton, Jan. 9.
Most of the British staff of the Sudan's public works ministry submitted their resignations tonight, it was reported.

This brings to 600 the total number of resignation notices by British whose posts are being taken over by Sudanese. British officials numbered 1,344—Rough